

AOT: Reacting to the Show

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The AOT cast are brought to another dimension to watch their Past and Future. Follow them as they react to the cruelty of this World

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AOT: Reacting to the Show

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Intro

AOT: watching the show part 1

AUTHORS NOTE (hey everyone this is my first time writing FanFiction so please give me your honest opinions so I can improve. Now this Fanfic was inspired by the Power to strive series in which the characters react to the AOT show. I highly recommend you check it out. I decided to give a crack at the reaction types of fanfics as well. But unlike power to strive I intend to have a lot and I mean A LOT more characters reacting to it. I've tried to to keep the characters true to themselves and their relationships with other characters. This should be fun :)

INTRO

Eren yeager laid huffing on the ground with Levi and his squad standing next to him

"Get up" Levi said looking down at him "the sooner you do the sooner we'll be done"

The rest of Levi squad stood beside him also huffing from exhaustion but not nearly as bad as Eren

"See what did we tell you" Oluo spoke up "their is no way a cadet can keep up with us in our training"

"Oh shut up before you bite your tongue" Petra replied. She then looked down at Eren "Come on Eren we're almost done you can keep going"

"Just... just give me a second" Eren forced out while still gasping for air

"The 57th Expedition is in one week Eren" spoke up Eld "You need to get your body ready for it"

Gunther nodded beside him

"I know... I know" Eren huffed out and begin to stand up "I think I'm ready to-"

He was Interrupted when a bright light suddenly formed around his body

Causing the Levi the squad to freak out

"Shit is he transforming again!" Gunther yelled out

"thought he was starting to get control over his power!" Petra screamed

Levi turn to them "Everyone stand back or you'll get caught in the explo-" his eyes widen when he saw his own squad get absorbed by a bright light as well

"What the fu-" he then found himself also getting absorb by a bright light

Then in a blink of an eye they disappeared followed by darkness

Eren was beyond confused and scared

He remembered picking himself up about to get back to training when some sort of light engulfed his body

He thought he was transforming but that didn't make any sense. He was starting to get control over his transformations and this felt different from the lighting that he usually felt when he transformed

But as the light was absorbing him he felt himself lift up and then he was surrounded by Darkness that he was currently in.

Was he dead? Did the Levi squad think he was transforming and killed him? He didn't want to believe it but that was seeming like a

likely scenario

He then heard a groan beside him in the darkness

"Who's there!" He shouted

"Eren?" Said a voice he has grown quite familiar with

"Petra?" He replied

"Eren! Petra! Is that you?" Spoke another voice

"Eld?" Petra and Eren spoke in Unison

"Guys?" Spoke another

"Gunther?" They replied

"Where am I?!" And another

"Oluo?" They replied

"Would y'all shut up already" said a stern voice

"Captain!?" They all replied

He sighed and began to feel around the room to figure out his surroundings "I'm guessing none of y'all no where we are"

They all nodded

"You do realize that I can't see if your nodding or shaking your head?"

"Oh... right" spoke up petra who laughed shyly "no I don't think we do"

"Perfect" he replied sarcastically "don't just stand there make yourselves useful and try figure out where we are"

They all began moving around trying to engage with their surroundings navigating through the darkness. Gunther then knocked in too someone

"Oh sorry you ok" he asked

"Uh... fine thank you" spoke a new male voice that belong to neither Eren or the Levi squad

"Who the Hell are you?!" He replied in shock. He was then tackled by someone from his side causing a ruckus catching the attention of everyone else.

"What's going on over there" Levi spoke up from the other side of the room

"Gunther!" Screamed Petra "are you okay!?"

"Someone's attacking m-" he was cut off as he was put in a head lock

"WHO ARE YOU!?" screamed another new voice but with this one being female "Why did you kidnapped me and Armin!? Where have you taken us!?"

Eren recognized the owner of the voice immediately "Mikasa?"

"Eren?!" Mikasa spoke in shock "Have they taken you too!?" She spoke with hatred as she was not too kind on being taken to places against her will since it wasn't pretty the last time it happened

"Wait did I just hear Erens voice" spoke up Armin

"Armin?" Replied Eren

She tightened her grasp on Gunther throat making him gasped for air "WHO ARE YOU!? WHY HAVE YOU KIDNAPPED US!?" She screamed as Gunther begin to lose consciousness

Levi who was feeling the walls eventually felt his hand meet a switch of some kind and flipped it

The room was suddenly surrounded by light revealing everyone and everything in it. The room appeared to be a lobby of some sorts

Gunther used this distraction as an advantage to break free of Mikasa's grip as he fell to ground gasping for air

Mikasa looked down at him "hey aren't you one of the members from-" she stopped as her eyes finally found Eren

"Eren!" she screamed as she ran to him "Are you hurt? What Happened? Why are we here?"

Eren ignored her questions and looked over shoulder to see Armin looking at him with a confused and shock look "Armin do you know where we are?"

"No... I don't" he replied "all I remember is being surrounded by a bright light then I ended up here in this pla-" he was cut off as three lights appeared right above him and then three people fell out from them and directly on top of him

These three were people that Eren was also familiar with

"Ow my head" winced Connie grabbing his head

"Connie is that you" spoke sasha looking to her side and seeing him

"Where the hell are we" spoke Jean with caution written on his face

All of them were too lost in there confusion to notice that they were sitting on Armin who was having the life crush out of him

Eren ran over to help him

"Armin! Guys y'all are crushing h-" but he himself was cut off as three lights appear right above him and out came three more people

Reiner, Bertholdt and Annie fell right on top of him sending him straight to the ground

"What the hell" Reiner was the first to speak looking around the room
"what is this place?"

Bertholdt was sweating bullets while Annie was observing her environment with a deadly expression on her face like a predator looking for any threat near it

And just like the previous trio they also didn't realize they were crushing someone to death

Mikasa immediately rushed over to Eren "EREN!" Screamed Mikasa but as she was about to reach him More lights appeared above her but this time only there were two.

Two girls came out these lights and landed on top of mikasa as well

"Uh... what happened? What is this....weird room" Spoke Christa with fear in her voice

"No idea" spoke Ymir "All I remember was some sort flashy light covering my-" she and Christa were then launched in the air as Mikasa jolted up and jumped like a bullet heading towards Eren

Annie saw this and immediately jumped out of the way but Reiner and bertholdt weren't so lucky. Mikasa then kicked Reiner and bertholdt off Eren and sending them flying into Jean, Connie and Sasha who were then knocked off of Armin in process. They then formed a big human pile on to each other while Eren and Armin desperately gasped for air with Mikasa attending to to them.

The Levi squad were watching this with stunned expressions

"Did... they just appear out of thin air" eld spoke with a disbelief expression

"What In the world is going on" asked Oluo who was also in shocked

Levi was to surprised by the events that had just transpired right in front of him that he didn't notice when THREE MORE LIGHTS appeared above him and THREE MORE PEOPLE came out of them and landed on him as well.

These people were Erwin, Mike and Hange who all had Shocked expressions on their faces

Erwin and mike soon regained their composure and looked around the room skeptically

Hange on the other hand was freaking out

"WOAH did you guys experience the light too!? One moment we were in the meeting room discussing our plans for the next expedition now we're in this huge room surrounded by these glowing lights on the ceiling! and the floors look like-" she stopped when she noticed something below her "Levi is that you?"

"Get off me four eyes!" He screamed in annoyance

"COMMANDER ERWIN?!" the Levi squad screamed but before the could do anything else more lights appeared above them.

And as they gazed up their faces immediately formed looks of utter astonishment as not three, not Six but DOZENS AND DOZENS OF LIGHTS APPEARED IN THE AIR ABOVE THEM AND OUT CAME DOZENS AND DOZENS OF PEOPLE.

There faces of shock then twisted into fear as these Dozens and Dozens of people fell right on top of them forming a gigantic Dog pile of human bodies

The room was then filled with shouting and questioning as everyone wanted to know where the fuck they were

"What... the hell is this place" spoke a terrified Kitz Weilmann

"Um hey Marlo weren't we just patrolling the streets?" Asked an MP named Hitch "how did we get here?"

"I... have no clue" replied Marlo

"Hmm I wonder what was in that whiskey I was drinking" said a man by the name of Pixis

"What was the light just now" spoke Rico, a member of the Garrison "and why are military personnel here and-" her eyes widened as they landed on one man. The Commander and Chief

Premier Zachary removed himself from the pile of humans and dusted himself off and then began to look around the room "hmm well this was not how I was expecting my day to go"

Erwin smith, who had just gotten off Levi, look at the people in the room. He saw dozens of Military police, Garrison guards and scouts.

"Hange!" Screamed a scout known as Moblit who ran towards her "Hange what is happening here!?"

"I don't know" Hange looked around the room "We somehow appeared in this... weird room that looks like a waiting area. I suspect the mysterious lights are the main culprit on how we got here"

"Mike!" Screamed pair of scouts with the names of Nanaba and Gelgur "what is this place?"

"No idea" mike replied "but we're going to find out soon"

Eren and Armin have finally recovered from nearly suffocating. They looked among the people in the room with one catching their eyes

"Hannes?" Spoke Eren

Hannes turned around "Eren? Armin? Mikasa? Why are y'all here? Why am I here? Why are any of us here?" He asked in utter

confusion

"ERWIN SMITH" ranged out across the room all eyes looking towards the man who said it. And that man was Niles Dok.

"What is this place!? Is this one of your schemes!? Was it you who brought us here!?" he shouted angrily at the man

"I can assure you it was not me who orchestrated this" Erwin replied calmly

"If not you then who!?" Retorted Nile

"ME" replied a powerful voice that echoed off the walls in the room

Everyone looked up to where the voice came from and they all froze

Before then floating was a figure with a frame of 10 feet in height wrapped in a cloak that covered his whole body. He had a hood over his head and the opening where his face should be instead was a bright light that shined out.

Mikasa got in front of Armin and Eren eyeing this creature waiting for any sudden move of aggression

Everyone else stood there petrified of this mysterious being that had such a powerful presence around it. They stayed like that for a few minutes until one man finally spoke up

"... Who are you" Erwin asked slowly

"THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING" the mysterious being spoke " IS WHY ARE YOU HERE"

"Then... why are we here"

"FOR MY ENTERTAINMENT"

Even more fear came over the crowd of people. Entertainment? What kind of entertainment? Was he going to make them fight each other to death? Finding entertainment in comrades turning against comrades. Or was he going to make them do impossible deadly challenges that they had to survive or perish?

Erwin waited a minute and then spoke again "What kind of entertainment" he prepared himself for the worst case scenario

"REACTIONS"

Silence took over the room once again. Reactions? Reactions to what? To seeing their friends getting killed or tortured in front of them? Reactions to something horrendous?

After another minute of silence Erwin spoke up once more "Reactions to wh-" but he was cut off by the Beings overpowering voice

"YOUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"

"Wh... what"

"YOU WILL BE REACTING TO THE PAST AND FUTURE OF YOUR WORLD" He declared "YOU WILL LEARN NEW THINGS ABOUT THE TITANS, THE WORLD AND YOURSELVES."

Everyone was stunned at this declaration

"H... How is that possible" shyly spoke Armin. He strunk when the beings gaze fell upon him with mikasa stepping in front of him.

"NOT IMPORTANT" he replied then returned his gaze upon the crowd

"RIGHT AHEAD OF YOU LIES A DOOR THAT LEADS TO A THEATER" He replied pointing to a double set of doors "INSIDE

THERE ARE ENOUGH SEATS TO FIT YOU ALL AND ALSO A BIG SCREEN THAT WILL BROADCAST THESE EVENTS. THERE ARE FOOD AND BEVERAGES THAT YOU CAN ENJOY BY GOING TO THE COUNTER AND PICKING OUT WHAT YOU WANT AND ALSO RESTROOMS TO YOUR RIGHT IF YOU NEED THEM. DURING THE VIEWING SESSION IF THE AUDIENCE BEGINS A DISCUSSION OR DEBATE THE FILMING WILL PAUSE AND WAIT UNTIL EVERYONE QUIETS DOWN TO CONTINUE"he finally finished leaving the crowd gaping at his words. Silence took over as everyone was processing the news in different ways

Erwin still wanted answers to who this man is and how can he do this "So who are-" he was cut off once again

"ITS BETTER NOT TO QUESTION IT " He replied as if he knew what he was going to say "JUST ENJOY THIS BLESSING I AM OFFERING YOU FOR DOING SO WILL SAVE THE LIVES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM"

This news brought murmurings and whisperings among the audience

"ALSO IN THIS DIMENSION TIME IS NON EXISTENT SO WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR WORLD NOT EVEN A SECOND WOULD HAVE PASSED"

This amazed the crowd even more. Was this being some sort of God?

"ONCE YOU ALL TAKE YOU SEATS THE SCREEN WILL COME TO LIFE AND BEGIN THIS STORY " the being began growing brighter "WHILE I MAY NOT BE THEIR IN PERSON ILL STILL BE WATCHING YOU ALL AND I WILL INTERVENE IF THINGS GET... OUT OF HAND"

They wondered what he meant by that

Suddenly his whole body was absorbed in light as he spoke his final words to the audience

"THIS SHOULD BE FUN"

And as the light disappeared so did he

Everyone just stood their for moment. Some fell to their knees relieved that they could finally relax now that this Being was gone.

Everyone stood contemplating theirs thoughts and what to do next

In Hange's thoughts one thing that the Being said kept repeating in her mind "You will learn new thing about the Titans, You will learn new thing about the Titans, You will learn new thing about the Titans" a wide smile spread across her face.

She then full on sprinted into the theaters busting the doors wide open, scaring a few people, and got got front row seats. She took out a notepad from her jacket ready to write down anything that interested her

"HANGE!" Moblit ran in after her

"... you know that food does smell good" Sasha spoke up eyeing the food

"... your not wrong" Connie agreed

They both shared a look and then rushed to get the good food before it was taken

Erwin was lost in thought "Seeing our Future? Could... I achieve my dream this way, will... I finally know the truth" a smile crept on Erwin's face as he began his march into the the theater

Seeing their commander head into the room the other scouts followed his league with some stopping to get food and drinks on the way.

Commander Pixis went to the counter, Grabbed some alcohol, and headed into the room with the rest of the Garrison following after him

Niles looked reluctant at first but after seeing everyone else entering the room he decided to just go along with it. The military police followed him in too

"This whole thing is... interesting" thought Levi as he entered the theater

"Don't question it huh?" Armin thought back on the Being's words
"Well guess thats for the best. It would probably drive me crazy trying to figure this whole thing out"

"The future?" Mikasa was in deep thought "I wonder what it holds for me, Armin and Eren"

Eren was also In deep thought "Humanity's future is about to be shown to us. I wonder... if we'll finally see ourselves break out the cage we call walls and be... free"

After everyone had gathered their Beverages and snacks they all sat down and too their Amazement the Screen came to life.

AUTHORS NOTE (finally done with the intro. next chapter will be the reaction to to season 1 ep 1. I'll try to get it out soon. Please leave reviews on what you think so far)

The Fall of Shiganshina, Part 1

It begins with two birds flying, the sky orange with the evening sun. An eerie, echoing sound grew louder as the birds were reflected in a wide, green eye. The people had stopped in their actions, staring, fearful and confused, at something off-screen.

Confusion swept through the theater with many not knowing what was going on

A dog growled and barked, though no sound could be heard over the low whistle. The birds flew past a tower and the camera shifted to show them flap past a tremendous, red hand grasping onto the edge of the wall.

Half the people in theater jumped at the sudden reveal

Eren, Armin and Mikasa eyes widen recognizing that deadly grip that clung to the wall

With another trio among the audience also knowing who the hand belonged to

"Wait is that..." a soldier spoke when realization came upon him

The camera panned to show young Armin, Eren and Mikasa gazing at the sky, mouths open, horrified, like the rest of the crowd .

Members of the audience's eyes opened wide upon seeing the young trio

"Eren?" Jean spoke with surprise

Christa looked at Eren "Eren what's going on?"

"What is this" asked a soldier in the crowd

"... The Fall of Shinganshina" Eren somberly spoke

This sent a wave of surprise and horror among the crowd with all knowing what happened to Shinganshina.

Reiner, Annie and Bertholdt's eyes darkened

"On that day, humanity remembered," A shadow began to loom over the wall, growing larger with every passing second and covering the buildings and people below. An immense, muscle-like head raised above the wall beside the hand, steam blowing out from behind it. It was skinless and its teeth were stuck tightly together in a constant sneer. It's deep eyes glared down at the small humans coldly. "The fear of being in control of them,"

Fear spread among the audience like wildfire as the gaze of Colossal titan fell upon them sending shivers among even the most hard core veterans of the scout regiment

"... Dear god" spoke Niles with wide eyes

"How can we fight that monster?" Kitz Weillman muttered out

Pixis eyed the Titan "It seems the reports about his size were not an understatement"

"I knew it was massive but..." Connie uttered in a shaky voice

"So that's the big guy huh?" Said Levi as he eyed the titan sharply

"It would appear so" responded Erwin

Hange began eagerly writing notes while Moblit sketched the Colossal titan's form.

The screen cut to the image of horses racing through a forest in a storm. "All soldiers, prepare for battle!" The commander yelled .

The 104th cadets suddenly straighten their backs at the sound of the voice for reasons they didn't know, the voice seemed so familiar to them.

"We have one target! We will slay it and claim this spot as humanity's first stronghold beyond the Walls!"

The veteran scouts sadly knew that this mission wouldn't be a success since no base has ever been permanently set up in titan territory

"Target approaching!" A Titan was shown

Some of the military police looked on at the menacing creature in front of them with fear

"So this is a titan?" Said an MP with a shaky voice

"They certainly live up to the name don't they" said another MP

Hitch gulped

While the military police had a feeling of terror, the survey corps had one of excitement

"Erwin look it's you!" Hange screamed while Levi winced as she just yelled near his ear

"You don't say?" He spoke in a sarcastic and annoyed tone

"Yes you are correct Hange" Erwin responded. "I thought I recognized this mission" he spoke in a more somber tone with a grim expression on his face

"The Commander's appearance hasn't changed at all in the last 5 years" said Sasha while she had a mouth full of food

"Split into five groups just as we practiced!" The commander ordered .

"We'll act as the bait! All assault squads, switch to 3D Maneuver Gear! Strike from all directions at once! "

A young man was the first to approach the Titan. He attacked from behind, blades swirling. "Taste the power of humanity!"

The cadets looked on in awe while the scouts and garrison looked on in respect

"That guy seems so cool!" Shouted Eren

"Charging at a titan with no hesitation requires great courage" Armin said

"Or great stupidity" retorted Jean but he couldn't deny how badass it was

"Yes" Erwin suddenly spoke "Moses Braun, A very brave and skilled soldier"

The Scout regiment enthusiasm dropped knowing there wasn't a Moses Braun in the scout regiment currently. Which could only mean one thing.

" *Braun ?*" Reiner thought as he looked at the screen " *Could this man be a distant relative of mine ?*"

The sun shining on flowers was disrupted by images of blood, a Titan's teeth, a stone building with a windmill that became overrun by Titans, a red uniform, children's toys, a bee in a human eye, a close-up of a creepy Titan smile, and someone being plucked from the ground .

"What the hell?" Said Niles

"... Thats kinda freaky" Sasha spoke up

The images zoomed by quickly and then a young Eren woke with a gasp .

They all looked at Eren

"The hell was that" Jean said eyeing Eren

"I know your fucked up in the head but I didn't know you were that bad" Ymir spoke earning a glare from Mikasa

"I don't remember this" spoke Eren confusingly "I must have forgotten when I woke up but..." he trailed off as one of the images from the dream struck him " *Was that mom being eaten ?*" How was he able to see that if this takes place before that event

"Mikasa?"

"We should be heading back."

"What are we doing here?"

"You were that deep asleep that you're still only half-awake?"

"No," Eren replied. "It just feels like I had this really long dream or something."

"What was it about?"

"I can't remember."

Mikasa went to grab her firewood, then looked at him in surprise. "Eren, why are you crying?"

"Huh?" Eren touched his face in confusion as tears rolled down his eyes

"I be crying to if I had a dream like that as a kid" said Hitch

[Year 845 - Shinganshina District]

The atmosphere was peaceful. People moved about without worry, going on with their lives. Children ran around, laughing

and playing.

"Listen! It was by the goddesses' great wisdom that the Walls were built! The Walls are their divine work! No one must be allowed to defile the Walls!"

Groans erupted from the crowd

"Great these lunatics are here too?" Hitch said annoyingly

"These guys really annoy the shit out of me" said Jean earning murmurs of agreements from the crowd

"Don't tell anyone. About me crying." Eren sulked a little, head down as he walked.

"I won't," Mikasa said. "But crying for no real reason, you should have your dad give you a checkup ."

"Not really that big of a deal" said Connie while he chow down some popcorn

"Ya but" Sasha looked to the side making sure Mikasa wasn't paying attention " It is Mikasa we are talking about hear and you know how she is around Eren"

"True" Connie admitted

"Don't be stupid! I can't tell him!"

"What are you cryin' about, Eren?" A tall man, a Garrison soldier, walked up to them.

"Hey there's me!" Hannes spoke like a little kid

"Hannes!"

"Did you get scolded by Mikasa?" Hannes's cheeks were pink and his words a little slurred.

"Drinking on the job huh?" Mike spoke

"Tch" spouted Levi

"You should take your duty as a soldier more seriously" said Rico

Hannes shrank down in his seat from embarrassment knowing his superiors were seeing him drinking while not fulfilling his duty

"A drink from time to time doesn't hurt" Commander Pixis hummed

Moblit nodded in agreement knowing he was the heaviest drinker in the Survey Corps thanks to his job as Hange's assistant.

Gelgar also agreed

Huh?! What makes you think I was crying?! Whoa," Eren said and jerked way, hand over his nose, "you reek of booze!"

"Come on, it's cool." A voice came from behind Hannes. Three Garrison soldiers were playing cards, a bottle of alcohol in plain sight, laughing without a care.

"You're drinking again?" Eren stared at the scene with wide eyes.

"Why don't you two join us?" Hannes teased .

"Seriously?" Scoffed Nanaba

"Quite inappropriate behavior soldier" scolded Premier Zachary

"Yes sir" Hannes shyly responded

"Well, uh... don't you have work to do?"

**"Yup! We're guardin' the gate today!" Hannes said proudly.
"We're stuck here all day, so we end up getting hungry and if**

some booze happens to get into our drinks, so what? It's no big deal ."

"Unless it interferes with your duty which it clearly does" Levi huffed out

"Ok ok I get it" Hannes tiredly spoke "I don't drink on the job anymore you know"

"And will you be able to fight if something happens?!" Eren demanded.

"And when would that be?" Hannes looked honestly confused.

"Isn't it obvious?! When they break the Walls and storm the city!"

"Damn, Eren." Hannes touched his forehead. "Don't start yelling so suddenly."

One of the Garrison soldiers stood and walked up to them, laughing, just as drunk as his comrade. "You're lively, doctor's son! If they do bust down the Walls, we'll take care of business, don't you worry. It's never happened, not once in the last one hundred years."

"If only it stayed that way" Petra said with many nodding

"Still, my dad says there's nothing more dangerous than being complacent like that!"

"Dr. Yeager, huh?" Hannes looked reminisce. "Yeah, he's got a point. He once saved this town from an epidemic. I can't argue with him."

Some of the crowd were amazed by this revelation

"Woah did your dad really save the whole town" Sasha spoke amazingly

"Apparently, I wasn't alive at the time but that's what I've been told"

"If it wasn't for Grisha I don't know what would have happened to us"
Hannes responded and then smiled "he saved my family from the epidemic"

" *This Grisha Yeager sure is something* " thought Hange

"Still," Hannes said, "they're another story. When you're a soldier, you get to see those things roaming around outside while you're on Wall reinforcement duty and stuff. The Walls are fifty meters tall, though. I can't see 'em do anything about it."

"W-Wait... So you're saying you don't even have the resolve to fight them to begin with?" Eren demanded.

"Pretty much!" Came a cheerful reply from Hannes.

"Wh-What?!" Eren said indignantly. "Then drop the 'Garrison Regimen' name for 'Wall Construction Squad' instead!"

This earn snickers from the crowd

The other Garrison soldier thought it was funny, too. "That doesn't sound half bad."

"But you gotta understand, Eren, if a soldier's doing his job, things have seriously gone to hell. It's better when everyone's calling us useless freeloaders. It means peaceful times for us all."

"Hmm quite an ideology you have" Pixis hummed out

"Sure, we can stay inside the Walls our entire lives and do nothing but eat and sleep! But that basically makes us cattle!"

Eren yelled, scowling.

"And quite an Ideology he has" Gunther spoke

The words seemed to strike a chord with Hannes, although the other soldiers laughed. "Man, you're one plucky kid! For someone who's totally helpless! Right, Hannes?!"

"Huh? Y-Yeah."

Eren kept his head down and walked away, Mikasa right beside him.

"Hey, Eren," Hannes called out, but he was ignored.

"What a strange kid," one of the soldiers commented.

"Don't tell me... does he wants to join the Survey Corps?" Hannes stared after him.

"Im impressed Yeager" spoke eld gaining Eren's attention "it seems you've always wanted to join the survey corps since you were a kid"

"Ya it's always been my dream" Eren spoke proudly while Mikasa looked down

The two children continued to walk in silence, until Mikasa finally spoke, "Eren, I'd forget about the Survey Corps if I were you."

"How blunt" snickered Connie

"Like I said it's Mikasa what do you expect" replied Sasha

"What? You're gonna look down on them, too?"

"It doesn't have anything to do with how I see them-"

Bells began ringing in the distances. "The Survey Corps is back! They're gonna open the front gate!" Eren grabbed Mikasa's hand. "Let's go see the heroes return, Mikasa!"

Some the survey corps smiled at that with it being very rare for them to be recognized as heroes for their efforts for humanity

"More like suicidal maniacs" said an MP earning him glares from few

"Ohm! Damn! I can't see!" Eren spotted some crates and they ran toward them.

A defeated Erwin caught sight of Eren's hopeful, bright-eyed smile and looked away, confusing the child.

"Do you remember that Erwin" hange asked taking a break from writing notes

"Can't say that I do" Erwin looked at the screen "My mind was... elsewhere"

Almost every single soldier walked broken, bloodied, and bandaged. It finally seemed to hit little Eren.

The crowd looked on in a mixture of sadness and horror with many losing their appetite

"They're the only ones who made it back?"

"Everyone else must've gotten eaten."

"This is what they get for going outside the Walls."

This angered the scouts

"Is that really all they have to say to people risking their lives for the betterment of humanity!" An angry scout shouted

"Their not wrong" an MP in the crowd spoke up

"Who said that!" The scout stood up ready to confront the person

"Sit down don't cause a ruckus" Levi said sternly

"... Yes sir" the scout replied defeated and returned to his seat

"Moses! Moses!" A frantic feminine cry came from the crowd.

"Excuse me, I don't see my son, Moses, anywhere. Do you know where he is?" The woman walked up to the commander.

"This is Moses' mother. Go get it," he ordered .

No one liked the sound of that

Eren and Mikasa grimly knew what was coming

She stared down at the bloodied sheet, unsure. Carefully, she began to unwrap it-then gasped, trying to quickly cover up the appendage. Pain filled whimpers escaped her as she sank to her knees, clutching what was left of her son.

"Oh my God" said a female Garrison soldier

"That pure mother" Christa spoke almost brought to tears

"From what I can remember Moses was an astounding soldier who inspired his comrades" Mike said while he closed his eyes in respect

"It's all we could retrieve." The commander knelt before her.

"But my son... he carried out his duty, right? Even if he didn't achieve direct greatness, surely my son's death helped humanity to fight back, didn't it?!"

"Of course he did!" shouted a scout soldier

With many other scout voicing their agreement

"How so?" Shouted a MP "by being more food for the titans?" Some MPs voice their agreement to this as well

"THATS IT!" shouted Oluo standing up with many other scouts joining him "I will not tolerate this disrespect to our fallen comrades!"

"Return to your seats" Erwin spoke sternly

"The only thing your fallen comrades have done is satisfied the titans hunger while achieving nothing for humanity!" The MP shouted back standing up as well with other MPs joining him.

"Stop this nonsense all of you!" Nile ordered to no avail

Just when it seemed like all hell was about to break loose One man slammed his hand down on his food tray shattering it.

They all turn their attention to The commander and chief Zachary who now stood before a broken food tray.

"All of you return your seats and stop bickering like children or I'll not hesitate to use disciplinary action on all of you when we return to our world" he said in calm but demanding tone

This then got everyone to return to there seats

"Of course!" Then he faltered, looking dejected. "No... On this latest scouting mission, we..." He gritted his teeth and screamed, eyes shut. "No! Just like all the other missions we achieved nothing at all!" Tears streamed down his face. "My incompetence has done nothing but needlessly send soldiers to their deaths! We haven't found out anything about them! "

The Scouts looked on in shock while the military police looked on with agreement

"You got to be kidding me!" Shouted Petra "You don't say that to a grieving mother who just lost their son!"

"See even your own commander agrees with-" The MP was silenced by Zachary's hard stare.

"What a mess," a civilian said.

"You can say that again."

"Our taxes are basically going to feeding and fattening those things up now."

Gelgar tightened his fist which didn't go unnoticed by the person sitting next to him

"Aren't you use to it by now" Nanaba spoke

"Yes but it doesn't mean it doesn't still anger me"

The judgmental jerk let out a squawk, holding his head. "What the hell, you little punk?!" He turned to see an angry Eren holding a stick.

"Hell yeah Eren!" shouted a scout

"Do it again!" shouted another

A hand reached from around the building and yanked him back. "H-Hey!" Eren cried out. "What are you doing, Mikasa?!"

"Get your ass back here!" The man yelled while Eren was dragged away.

"Mikasa, this is far enough, isn't it?!"

Without a word, she launched him into the wall.

Some of the Crowds eyes widened to this

"Damn... the girls strong" said a Garison soldier

Levi's eyes slightly rose " *that kind of strength in a little girl is unnatural* " he then stared at Mikasa " *It seems the rumors about her strength are true* "

"What was that for? Now the firewood's all over the place." Eren began collecting the firewood.

"Eren, have you changed your mind about joining the Survey Corps?"

Eren ignored her question. "Help me pick this up."

"There isn't much to begin with." Mikasa knelt and started picking up the firewood.

"Armin where are you in this" Sasha spoke up "Aren't you and Eren childhood friends from the same town?"

"Um..." Armin responded knowing what was happening to him before Eren and Mikasa showed up "I guess we just have to wait and see hehe" he said in with a fake smile

Eren and Mikasa then entered their house

"We're home."

"Welcome back," Carla greeted and smiled, looking over her shoulder.

A avalanche of emotions came over him after seeing his mother again that ranged from Sadness, Anger and regret

His eyes began to water but he held the tears in

Mikasa then put a comforting hand on his arm, when Eren looked at her he also noticed she was fighting back tears

"My, Eren, I see you've worked harder than usual!" Carla remarked.

Eren emptied out the firewood into a wooden box. "Yeah."

Carla pulled his ear for a second. "Your ear's red, that shows that you're lying. You had Mikasa help you, didn't you? "

"Busted" said Jean

"Your mother is so beautiful Eren" Christa chirped up

Eren didn't respond as he kept staring at his Mom savoring every detail. He never thought he would see his mother's face again so he wasn't going to let this moment go to waste.

Eren sat at the table with Mikasa and Grisha, stuffing his face. "Oh? You're leaving, Dad? Is it for work?"

"Yes. Some checkups in the interior. It'll take a couple of days. "

"And that was the last time I ever saw him" Spoke Eren somberly. He desperately wanted to know what came of his father

"So Grisha Yeager could be somewhere in the interior" Erwin spoke and then turned to Niles "Does the name ring a bell for you?"

"Can't say it does" Niles spoke "Why are you so curious about this man's location?"

"We have many questions we want to ask him" Erwin left it at that

"Eren says he wants to join the Survey Corps," Mikasa said, eyes downcast.

This earned a few laughs from the room over how blunt she was

The atmosphere changed immediately.

"M-Mikasa! I told you not to say anything!"

"Eren! What are you thinking?!" Carla walked over to him, grabbing his shoulders. "Do you have any idea how many people have died outside the Walls?!"

"I do!" The little boy said.

"Still can't tell if he's brave or plain stupid" said Hitch

"He definitely has heart" responded Marlo "It's quite admirable"

"Then why-"

"Eren," Grisha interrupted his wife, "why do you want to go out there?"

"I want to know what the outside world is like!" Eren replied passionately. "I don't want to live my entire life in ignorance inside the Walls! Plus if no one else is willing to take their place, then the lives of all who've died will be for nothing!"

The Scouts smiled at that while the military police let his words sink in

Rico nodded in agreement

"Never thought of it that way" said a scout

"Eren you really do have the heart of a scout" smiled Petra

The rest of the Levi squad nodded

"So to avenge their comrades who died for nothing they send more of their comrades to die for nothing?" whispered an MP "the cycle just keeps repeating itself"

"I see." Grisha stood and walked away.

"The boat's about to leave. I better get going."

"Hold on, dear!" Carla followed after him.

"Talk some sense into Eren!"

"Carla, words can't hold back human curiosity."

"Very true" spoke Hange "it's human nature to be curious about stuff and to learn more about it"

"Eren, when I get back, I'll show you the basement that I've kept secret all this time." Grisha pulled out the key hanging from his neck.

Eren smiled excitedly. "R-Really?!"

Grisha tucked the key back under his shirt.

Erwin, Levi and Hange eyed the key

"The basement?" Spoke a Garrison soldier "sounds important"

"So that's whole reason for the upcoming expedition huh?" said a scout "to get to that basement"

"Wonder what's in there" a scout said the question that everyone was wondering

Grisha began to leave

"Wait if he leaves with the key and that's the last time you saw him then how did you manage to retrieve the it?" Erwin spoke with honest confusion

"I... don't know" Eren spoke with the same level of Confusion "it just appeared around my neck one day when I woke up"

"Hmm" Erwin hummed in deep thought and returned his gaze to to screen "Hopefully it will soon be revealed"

"Take care!" Eren waved happily.

"Just forget it," Carla said. "Joining the Survey Corps is a stupid idea!"

"Huh?! Stupid?! People who don't mind living like livestock are the stupid ones if you ask me!" With that, Eren took off running.

Eren clenched his fist in anger and wanted to punch his younger self for how he treated his mom knowing what was about to come

He didn't know if he could take it when his mother death was shown again but he will try to stay strong

"Eren!" Carla called out. He rounded the corner, out of sight. She turned to the little girl with hopeful, expectant eyes.

"Mikasa, he gets himself into trouble so easily. If anything ever happens, you need to be there for each other!"

"Okay," Mikasa said and nodded.

Eren glanced at Mikasa *" was that the reason she is so protective over me ?"* He thought *" in order to honor my mother's last wish to her ?"*

He now felt bad about all times he pushed her away when she was trying to help. But something didn't seem right about that. *" No she was like this before the Titans came so I wonder why she is so protective over me? Was it because I saved her ?"* That must be it he thought

"What's the matter, heretic?!" A bully pushed Armin into a wall. "If you don't like it, let's see you hit back!"

Armin gulped

"Bullies" Christa spoke sadly. She was quite familiar with them in her childhood

"Y-Yeah, right! That would be stooping to your level!"

"What was that?"

"You know I'm right! That's why you have to resort to violence! Because you can't argue back! Which means you concede defeat to me, does it not?!" Armin said angrily .

"You know despite being as smart as you are you can be pretty dumb sometimes" Ymir spoke to Armin

"Ya" agreed Jean "what you said was true but if you say that to meatheads like them then your just asking for a beating."

"Shut up, smart-ass!" He raised his hand to strike Armin.

"See?"

"Stop that!"

"It's Eren!"

"Why am not surprised Eren would just rush in there like the suicidal maniac he is" said Jean

The bullies got excited.

"That idiot's back for more?!"

"Does he want his ass kicked?!"

"We'll tear you a new"

One of them squinted and said, "M-Mikasa's with him!"

"We're screwed! Run!"

This sent laughter among the crowd

"What a scary sight" snorted Sasha

"One look at me and they ran off!" Eren said arrogantly

This sent another round of laughter while Eren looked down in embarrassment

"No, it was Mikasa they saw-ow!" Armin winced.

"Hey! You okay, Armin?" Eren offered him a hand.

Armin looked at his friend's outstretched hand and hid his emotional face by looking at the ground. "I can get up on my own."

"Oh, alright."

Now it was Armin's turn to be embarrassed now that half the military was seeing him in such a pathetic state

Golden-orange rays highlighted the houses as the three friends sat near the water. "I said humanity needs to venture into the outside world at some point and then they beat me up and called me a heretic," Armin told them.

"Damn, why does everyone look down on people just for wanting to go outside?!" Eren tossed a pebble in the water.

"Well, because we've had a hundred years of peace by staying inside the Walls. They're worried that going outside carelessly will invite them in."

Some MPs nodded to that

"The Royal Government's policies have made having any interest in the outside world a taboo," Armin said.

"It's our lives! We can risk 'em if we want!" Eren said angrily.

"I won't let you. You can't." Mikasa looked over her shoulder.

"Oh yeah!" Eren remembered. "I can't believe you told my parents!"

"Eren you know I only do this because I care about you" mikasa spoke

"I know" Eren replied "But Mikasa you have to realize it's my life I should be able to pick what path I go on"

"... I know" she responded looking down

Armin looked lost. "Huh?"

"I never agreed to help."

"So, what did they say?" Armin asked.

"They're less than pleased."

"It figures."

The wind began to blow softly, clouds moved lazily in the sky.

The Shinganshina trio waited an anticipation for what was about to come

"Indeed, I think people are crazy if they think we'll be safe inside these walls forever," Armin said.

"Mommy!" A little kid ran into his mother's arms, happy.

"Just because the Walls haven't fallen for a hundred years doesn't guarantee that they won't fall today..."

Children laughed and played in the background.

"... not one bit."

Everyone was watching the scene with relaxed expressions while Mikasa, Eren, Armin and Hannes tensed

A woman stood on the roof, baby in her arms. Thick silence filled the screen.

Seconds passed by, a shot of the Wall appeared, peaceful and undisturbed.

Most of the viewers were led into a false sense of comfort

Suddenly an explosion ranged out

Making many jump and shriek from the surprise

"Dear Maria.." spoke Kitz putting a hand over his heart

"That came out of nowhere"

"What even was that?"

Hange's eyes widened "Erwin-" she spoke but was cut off

"I know" Erwin responded "Just like Eren's transformation"

"So that confirms it" Levi began to speak "these monster are in human disguises and are probably in the walls somewhere waiting to strike once more"

"Like wolves in sheep's clothing" said Mike

" *Maybe* " Erwin looked behind him at the audience " *they could be in this very room* "

Most people were knocked off their feet by the sheer force. They looked at the smoke coming from the other side.

"Wh-What was that?" Armin said.

"An explosion?" Eren turned.

"That way!" Someone behind them pointed.

"Did something fall?!" Someone said.

"I'm not really sure." Another answered.

Armin ran after them and Eren called out to him. "Hey, Armin!" They followed him into the plaza. "Just what are you staring at?" He followed their gazes. Ominous music began playing in the background as a massive red hand clutched the Wall, creating cracks.

Realization came upon the audience

"Oh... it's him" said Jean

" He appeared just like how Eren transforms " Armin thought " Could it be..." his eyes widened as he began to put the piece together

Hange readied her notepad

"It can't be! Th-That wall is fifty-meters high!" Armin stared fearfully.

"It's one of them." Eren gasped. A large shadow fell over them as a mammoth face stared down at them. "A Titan!"

Chills

It Began to raise its leg

They all watched in Horror knowing what was to come

It brought its leg through the wall smashing it and the people near by

Bertholdt shifted in his seat now experiencing the aftermath of his sins

The strong gales shattered windows and sent people flying, ripping off parts of homes. Debris flew and crushed some

humans trying to flee.

"That was..." Armin recognized one of the boys that bullied him getting crushed. He felt pity for him even tho he made his life hell sometimes, he was still a kid.

"Th-They b-blew a hole in the W-Wall," Armin stuttered, on his knees.

The first Titan entered, a wide grin on its face .

Some MPs almost wet themselves

"They're inside!" People panicked and ran.

"The Titans have gotten inside!"

"We need to run, too-Eren!"

Eren staggered away. "My house is... my mom

"Oh no" said a garrison soldier

Levi sighed

People began to look at Eren with pity who was on verge of tears but still staying strong

Mikasa chased after him, ignoring Armin's call.

Armin stared at his shaking hand, clutching it to stop the trembling. "It's all over. Countless Titans are going to overrun the city!"

"What a terrifying situation it is" somberly spoke Pixis

There's no way our home got hit. Eren stared in fear at the chaos around him as he ran. People screaming, children crying, blood, boulders, and destruction, everywhere he looked it was a

nightmare. Just around this corner, our house is standing there, like always!

Eren and Mikasa became distressed at the sight before them.

Mikasa grabbed Eren's hand with tears in her eyes

Eren still remained strong

"Mom!" Eren ran over to the destroyed house. "Mom!"

Carla weakly opened her eyes, lower half of her body buried under the rubble.

"Eren."

**"Mikasa! Grab that end!" Eren grabbed a piece of the rubble.
"We gotta move this pillar!" Footsteps boomed around them.
They looked up to see many giants over the roofs of the houses, wandering around.**

"Hurry, Mikasa!"

"I know!"

"The Titans have gotten inside, haven't they?" Carla began fearfully. "Eren, take Mikasa and run away! Hurry!"

**"I want to!" Eren grunted, trying to force the wreckage to move.
"I want to run away! Get up already!"**

They watched on in helplessness

"The debris has crushed my legs," Carla continued, almost dazed. "Even if I could get out, I wouldn't be able to run. You understand what that means."

Some people began to get emotional with some sniffing

"I'll run away carrying you, then!" Eren screamed, tears in his eyes.

"Why don't you ever listen to your mother?!" Carla yelled back. "You can at least do this one last thing! Mikasa!"

The young girl bowed her head, crying, too. "No, No!" A pair of legs was seen.

"If you don't go, all three of us will-" A familiar sound of wires was heard. "-Hannes!"

Relief washed over them with a few cheering thinking that Hannes will be able to help

"Take the children and get out of here!"

"I can't have you thinking I'm a small man, Carla. I'm gonna slaughter the Titan and save all three of ya!" Hannes declared confidently.

"Hell yeah!" shouted a scout

Rico smiled "Maybe I was to quick to judge him"

A garrison soldier looked at Hannes in excitement "Sir you really are-" he stopped when he saw Hannes face

Which was covered with shame

"Wait! Don't fight them!" Carla begged.

Hannes pulled out his blades, running toward the Titan. She's right, I could save those two for now for sure. But I'm finally going to repay the favor I owe!

"Alright time to teach that Titan the power humanity!" Screamed a scout

"It looks big don't forget to go for ankles to slow it's pace!" Screamed another

The 104th cadets knew what happened to Eren's mom but they still stupidly held out hope that maybe everything would be ok

Hannes came to a grinding halt, staring at the looming mass that grinned creepily down at him, terror clear on his face, feeling suffocated as if it were just him and the Titan.

All excitement was lost and was replaced by pure fear

Some MPs couldn't take it anymore and wetted themselves at the sight of the demon piercing right into there souls

Kitz almost fainted

Quickly, he sheathed his swords and turned back .

Hannes looked down in guilt

Pixis sighed taking another sip from his bottle

Some soldiers were disappointed but they understood why he chose this. If they were faced by a titan with a Terrifying presence like that they couldn't say they wouldn't do the same.

Hey! Hannes!" Eren screamed when the older man grabbed him, then moved to Mikasa. "What are you doing?!"

" He at least saved the kids " thought Rico

"Eren..." sadly said Petra

Even Oluo felt sad for him

Bertholdt looked at Eren with guilt

"I can see why he's so... passionate about his hatred for the titans"
said Ymir

Jean slowly nodded

Mikasa now had tears flowing as did Armin as he remembered
Eren's Mothers kindness towards him. She was an amazing woman.

Eren still fought the tears back that were creeping around his eyes

"Thank you." Carla smiled, relieved .

" *So this is a true mother ?*" Christa thought longingly

"Hey! Mom's still!" Eren reached out for her, sobbing.

**Carla mimicked the action, holding out her arm. "Eren! Mikasa!
You have to survive!" A happy image of her family flashed
through her mind. She retracted her arm, trembling, covering
her mouth to smother her words. "Don't go."**

That did it for Eren

At the sudden reveal of his mother's frightened last words the flood
gates broke loose and he began to sob

Mikasa wrapped her arms around Eren while Armin put a comforting
hand over his shoulders

More people began to cry at the thought of their own mothers being
in this situation.

**The Titan stood firmly behind her. Reaching down, it moved the
rubble aside with ease and picked her up. "Stop!"**

Carla struggled to break free .

**It brought its other hand up and snapped her spine, a horrified
Eren still watching.**

Some flinched at this and looked away

Putting the limp body in its mouth, it chomped down. A fountain of blood exploded in the air .

They silently watched with pale faces as the blood splattered on the ground

"Humanity was suddenly reminded that day..."

The Titan swallowed, looking gleeful.

"... of the terror of being at their mercy. Of the humiliation of being trapped inside a cage."

The screen the faded to black

Everyone still sat in there seats with the occasional sniffing breaking the silence

"I'm... Going to head to the restroom" said an

MP who was soaked in his own piss with many others getting up to follow him

Discussions about the episode broke out between small groups of people

"So the Colossal Titan is confirmed to be able to become human" Hange spoke looking at her notes while speaking to Levi, Mike and Erwin "and it is reasonable to assume that the armor titan can too"

"Agreed" spoke Erwin

"So now all we got to do is figure out who these assholes are" said Levi

"We know they had to be present during the battle of trost, they could have blended in with the Civilians or..." she eyed the crowd

"with soldiers"

Mike followed her gaze "Weren't quite a few of these soldiers present during the battle of Trost?"

"Yes... they were" spoke up Erwin

"Tch no use speculating without evidence" said levi, he noticed that everyone was returning to their seats

"Let's continue to watch" Erwin said sitting down "maybe it'll offer us some concrete evidence and reveals"

They all returned to their seats as the next episode began.

AUTHORS NOTE(well there you have it there first reaction into this story. Now don't go expecting quick updates like this again I was sick for a week with Covid so I had plenty of time on my hands to write this but I'm finally starting to go back into my normal life, but I can assure you the next reaction to episode 2 of season 1 won't take more than a couple of weeks to release. Hope you enjoyed reading this chapter and see you soon)

The fall of Shinganshina, Part 2

"Over a century ago, humanity faced a new enemy.

Humans armed with spears stood against numerous Titans.

"Wait are these..." uttered out garrison soldier

"Our ancestors" finished Erwin

"It would appear so" spoke Pixis

They all leaned in wanting to know more about there history before the walls were constructed.

"The difference of power between humanity and the new enemy was overwhelming."

"Soon, humanity was driven to the brink of extinction."

An entire sea of Titans walked around.

The screen rotated, showing where all the Titans were headed.

They paled at the overwhelming numbers of their enemies

"No... way" spoke a scout

"There can't be this many... right?" said a garrison soldier

"It's an exaggeration!" Screamed Kitz who was shaking "it's just there for dramatic effect. It has to be!"

"Humanity once numbered in the hundreds of millions" suddenly spoke Zachary "But when the titans appeared they severely lessoned that number only leaving barely a million in the walls today"

They all looked at him in shocked horror

"It's would take an overwhelming enemy to push us to these numbers in very little time" he the stared at the screen "and that appears to be what we're looking at right now"

The room filled with hopelessness

"The surviving humans built three Walls: Maria, Rose, and Sina. They then lived the next century in peace, under their protection."

"However..."

A mouse ran across a boulder with a bloodied arm crushed underneath it. A crow flew in and began picking at the hand. It let out a caw, echoing across the town. Smoke rose from multiple sources and buildings stood with fissures and broken windows.

"Until that time a wretched soul and parted." A long-faced man preached, eyes wide, a book in one hand and a broom in the other.

A light-haired Titan came toward him.

"You can't be serious" said Jean who was shocked at the persistence of this man

"Idiot is going to get himself killed screaming like that" said Levi

"Now as you see, I am punished for it!"

Titans wandered around, looking for prey, shaking the ground. A mother and daughter clutched each other, hiding. A crowd of panicking humans tried to run away while the preacher walked toward the danger they were running from.

"How awful" spoke Christa

"What avarice does manifest here?"

"In purgation of these souls converted, and no more bitter pain the Mountain has."

"The hell is he even on about?" spoke Connie in confusion

A woman ran, huffing, ending up at a dead end. Turning, she clapped her hands over her mouth, eyes glued to the way she came from. A large shadow covered her and she looked up to see a Titan smiling creepily down at her. It grabbed her by the head and pulled her up. "Stop! Let go!" She struggled so hard her shoe fell, but the effort was futile.

The Military police watched on frightened

The Garrison watched on saddened

The Scout regiment watched on determined to not let there people suffer like this again.

"What more, O Avarice, can you do to us, since you my blood so to thyself hast drawn..."

Everywhere, people screamed, running for their lives as Titans snatched them up left and right.

"... it careth not for its own flesh?"

A shadow fell over him and he looked to his left to see a 15-meter staring down at him.

"Shocker" said Levi in a sarcastic tone

"What more, O Avarice-"

It opened its mouth. The book slipped from his hand, landing in a puddle of blood

Not many were saddened by this

"That's one way to shut him up" whispered Hitch

In a quieter part of town, Hannes ran, Eren over his shoulder and Mikasa tucked under one arm. Suddenly, Eren broke out of his stupor. He turned and began hitting the older man.

"Eren! What are you doing?!"

"We were so close to saving Mom! Why the hell would you do that?!" Eren slammed his elbow on Hannes's head.

"We were so close to saving her!"

"Cut it out!" Hannes grabbed Eren by the arm and threw him to the ground.

"Eren!" Mikasa struggled out of the grasp and ran to him, kneeling beside him.

"Eren..." Hannes walked up to them, kneeling as well. "You couldn't save your mother because you're weak."

"What the fuck!?" Shouted a scout

"A bit harsh don't you think?" Said Gunther

"You don't just say that to a kid who couldn't save his mother" shouted Petra

"It's the truth" spoke Eren surprising everyone. He looked down at his open palm "back then I was too weak and useless to do anything" he closed his palm into a fist "But now things have changed" he declared confidently

Eren glared and threw his fist. Without meaning to, Hannes caught the punch with ease, proving his point. Eren struggled but couldn't free his arm. "And I... I couldn't stand up to the Titan because I lacked the courage!" Tears were running down both their faces.

Hannes stared at his pathetic self "And that's also the truth"

They looked at him with pity

Armin stared at Hannes " *How this must have eaten him up inside over the years* "

Hannes's free hand took hold of Mikasa and led the two children away. "I'm sorry."

"It's happened again." Mikasa touched her head, images of a bloodied woman on the ground and a man slumped against the wall flashing through her mind. This is familiar...

Mikasa looked at the screen sadly now having to remember Carla death and her own parents

The audience looked at the screen curious about what Mikasa was thinking about but decided not to act on their curiosity

Eren stared at Mikasa sadly having a good idea why it was familiar to her

Titans continued to terrorize the fleeing citizens.

"Hurry to the inner gate!" A Garrison soldier was waving a crowd toward the ships.

Eren stared at the man recognizing him as one of Hannes drinking buddies "hey isn't that-"

"Hugo" spoke Hannes

"Seems he's finally gotten his act together" spoke Levi "and all it took was for the wall to be destroyed and dozens of titans to roam in"

"Escape aboard the ships there! Use them to escape! Before you get eaten!" One of the ships began moving, leaving only one behind.

"City districts like Shiganshina that stick out in vital spots along the Wall serve to attract the Titans and streamline security costs and troop numbers. Performing true to its role as a Titan target, Shiganshina had but one inner gate through which its citizens could flee."

"I must say our ancestors were pretty smart when constructing our walls" spoke Moblit

"Discard your belongings! Let as many people on as possible!"

A bag went flying and landed next to other people's discarded luggage. Armin stared at the large crowd of people waiting to be let on, trying to find his friends.

"Armin, sit down." Smoke an old man

"Grandpa..." Armin spoke sadly. After the deaths of his parents his grandpa took him in and raised him as his own. His death hit him hard.

Eren put a comforting hand on his shoulder

"But Eren and Mikasa aren't here yet," Armin replied and looked out again. Then he spotted them, happy to see Hannes leading them through the masses so they could get on immediately. "There they are!" His relief ended as quickly as it began. His friends looked traumatized.

"Eren..."

"No child should ever have to experience something like that" spoke a garrison soldier

"Just let him be for now." Armin's grandfather looked down sadly. "Those poor souls. You can tell what happened by looking at them."

"Huh?" Armin turned to him, unsure.

"Don't just stand there! Hurry the hell up!"

A 15-meter Titan approached, knocking a structure down, completely ignorant of the destruction of its actions.

"Get those cannons loaded! Hurry! They're closing in!" Shouted Hugo

"we may have fooled around a lot on the job" Hannes spoke smiling at his friend "but when it came time for us to do our duty we were ready to give it our all"

Cannons were set into position and Hannes watched for a second before running somewhere.

Eren and Mikasa sat silently, horror clear on their faces.

"This can't be for real!"

"Please, god... Please, god... Please, god..."

"H-Hey!"

The plank connecting the people to the ship was removed.

Christa eyes widened "their... leaving all those people?"

"How... cruel" spoke Connie

"Cruel but necessary" spoke Pixis finally finishing his bottle "these boats were suppose to be only for travel, not to evacuate a whole city full of people"

"If only we had better arrangements for if the walls were to break" spoke up Rico "we could have saved so many lives"

"But we had grown to comfortable with our century long era of peace that we never entertained the fact that something like this could happen" Zachary said in a somber tone

"Hey! What are you doing?!"

People began to push against the line of Garrison soldiers.

"It's at full capacity! It has to leave!"

"No! Please! At least let our children on!"

This unsettled the members of the crowd

Christa eyes began to water, she always had a soft spot for kids

"I'm sorry, but we can't!" The soldier yelled in the direction of the ship, "Get going!"

A man shot forward and tried to get on, managing to catch the ledge. Two other men followed suit, one slipping and crashing.

"They shouldn't do that" spoke up hange "if the boat exceeds its wait limit it could lose its buoyancy"

"They don't care" said Levi "they risk bringing the whole ship down if it gave them a chance to live"

Cannonballs flew to the left and right of a 15-meter Titan.

"You idiot! What are you aiming at?!"

"B-But, sir, these aren't accurate enough to aim at moving targets!"

"on the ground their not" spoke Rico

"Indeed" nodded Pixis "that's why we made the decision to mount them on the walls. Gives a better vantage point and is also safer for the personnel operating them"

Another Titan, also a 15-meter, was coming behind the first.

"I don't give a shit! Get 'em reloaded at once!"

"I can't!"

The sounds of chains and grinding bricks were heard. "The gate's closing! They're... We're gonna get left behind!" The Garrison soldier abandoned his station and ran toward the gate.

"Hey!" Hugo called after him.

"So much for upholding their duty" Spat out Rico

"You can't really blame them" spoke an MP

Inside, Hannes was arguing with a fellow Garrison soldier. "Don't shut it! Hold on a little longer! There are still lots of people in there!"

"Quite admirable Mr. Hannes" spoke Pixis

"I may be a coward" began Hannes "but I'm not the kind of man who will leave his comrades behind"

"If the Titans get through, the town being overrun will be the least of our worries! All of humankind will be forced to withdraw behind the next Wall!"

"But that's no reason to leave these people to die!" Hannes argued.

Two soldiers ran up to them. "Shut the gate! Hurry!"

"The Titans are coming!"

"Close the gate at once!" The Garrison soldier ordered. It quickly began to slide down.

"Stop!" Hannes yelled. "Hey!" The two men grabbed his arms, restraining him.

"What the?"

Thundering footsteps pierced through the noise. They froze.

The audience stiffened

"What... what is it?" asked a scared MP

"I have a good guess" responded Hange

Eren and Mikasa finally broke out of their shock and looked up.

A large red foot with yellow outlines smashed through the street. Slowly, his armored body came into full view.

The crowd was stunned by the titan's appearance

Moblit began sketching the beast

"The armored titan" Spoke Erwin

"Truly lives up to the name" said Levi

"We didn't see any lightning strike" said Mike "could it be he doesn't have a human form and is just a special breed?"

"I doubt that" began Hange "from what I heard he deliberately targeted the gate so he has intelligence, something that normal titans don't"

They continued to listen

"It's possible it transformed outside the wall and made its way here in its titan form"

"Hmm it's a possibility" responded Erwin

Reiner was uncomfortable having his titan form shown on the screen. Its appearance did resemble him and it wouldn't take a

genius to connect the dots

One leg moving back, crouching, one arm front and one back, the Armored Titan got into position. The force of the push off cracked the ground and shattered the buildings closest to him.

Their eyes widened

"The damn thing is that fast!?" Shouted Connie

Hange looked at the screen shocked "you would think the armor would slow it down but it appears that's not the case"

"Great" said Levi

"What the hell's it doing?" Suddenly, the Garrison soldier came to his senses. "Fire!" Cannonballs flew through the air and one met the target true. But it was obliterated the moment it came in contact with the skin.

"Doesn't even seem to leave a scratch" said Hange writing it down

"Or even offer an nuisance" responded Levi

"If cannon balls are ineffective then we can give up on using blades" said Mike

"Then how are we going to fight this monster" asked Gelgar

"We'll find a way" was Levi's only response

The Armored Titan ducked and the other cannonballs missed.

"What?!"

"No effect?!"

"Shit! Run!"

"It's coming! Retreat!" They turned and ran. Behind them, the Armored Titan charged like a raging bull .

"It's too late for them" said Nanaba sighing

"A Titan's coming! Hurry! Close the gate!"

They frowned at the futile effort

The Armored Titan broke through the gate, sending bricks and boulders and soldiers flying everywhere.

"It... looked so easy to him" slowly spoke Sasha

"Hugo..." sadly spoke Hannes seeing his friend who he served by for years getting launched in the air before inevitably falling to his death

Reiner kept a hard stare at screen facing his sins head on

Ymir glanced at Reiner and Bertholdt

"Hmm bertholdt appears to be showing slight signs of guilt but Reiner keeps having that neutral expression and appears to be unaffected" she thought and then glanced at Annie as well "where is she in all this?"

Skidding, it came to a halt. Hannes looked at the massive hole in shock. "The Wall's..."

"... He completely obliterated the gate" said a stunned garrison soldier

A part of the armor slid down, and he opened his mouth, growling, letting out a cloud of steam

The crowd was surprised

"It can breathe fire!?" Shouted a frightened MP

"No, it appears to be very hot steam" hange retorted "must have been holding it in when he was charging at the gate"

"Within a few hours after Walls Maria had fallen in the southern district of Shiganshina, news of the incident had reached every city inside human territory."

[South of Wall Rose - Trost District]

A group of men was talking.

"Is it true the Titans have overrun Shiganshina?!" One man said. "I can't believe this! The Walls have held strong for a century! Why now?!"

"Who are they?" spoke Armin

"They are merchants" responded Zachary

Mikasa glared at one of the merchants recognizing him as the one who delayed the evacuation in trost

"Whether we believe it or not, the fact is that refugees have fled here by boat! Reports say there are five hundred on board."

"The question is if Shiganshina is all that was affected."

"But, surely they couldn't have gotten through Wall Maria as well?"

"In any event, we must contact the Royal Government and request instructions."

"This crisis is far too much for us to handle on our own."

"I'm sorry to interrupt!" A Garrison soldier came in. "A courier horse has just arrived! Titans have breached Wall Maria and entered its interior!"

"It's over..." Hannes stared as countless Titans wandered around.

"My God..." said Kitz

"If our theory is correct" began Hange "then most of the titans should be in wall Maria being drawn by the presence of humans in wall Rose"

"So that means it's going to be harder to reclaim wall Maria" said Eld

"Hey!" screamed a scout "that titan to the far left was my first titan kill!"

"You mean your only titan kill" responded another scout jokingly

"Shut up don't go acting like your all high and mighty with your three titan kills" he teased back

"Please none of those low numbers compare to my kill count" Olue said arrogantly

"That because your titan kill stealer"

annoyingly said perta with the rest of the squad nodding

"It's not my fault y'all are too slow to keep up with my elegant speed" he said which was received with groans from the Levi squad

On the ship, the refugees were having similar thoughts. "It's all over..."

"The Titans are going to devour humanity again."

"This is the end?" Eren muttered, eyes full of tears, mind going back to his family, sitting at the table, enjoying their meal.

"I'll never see that house ever again."

The memory of Carla pulling his ear came back .

Anger then emerged itself again in Eren at the life the titans stole from him

"I'll make them all pay" he whispered darkly

"Why?!" He remembered his mother, trying to stop him from joining the Survey Corps. "Why'd I argue for no reason like that?!" Of him running away now. "Why was that all I could do?!" Her smiling face came to him. "And now Mom's gone! She's never coming back! Why?!"

His anger grew but this time because of himself

" It's because you're weak." Hannes' words came to him.

It's because... I'm weak. Because humans are weak. Tears fell freely from Eren's eyes, and into his trembling hand. Is crying the only thing the weak can do?! Curling his hand into a fist, he got up and walked toward the edge. Mikasa stood, watching him.

"What's gotten into you, Eren?" Armin walked up to him, hand on his arm. The boy shoved it off. "Eren..."

"I'll kill them all!" He grabbed the edge.

"Not even a single one will be left!"

"Eren..."

"Such an arrogant proclamation" said a MP

"I had to listen to him say that everyday for the past three years" responded Jean

The cadets corps all nodded

"I'll make it happen" he respond still determined "and I now have the power too do that"

"The same year, the Royal Government made the decision to withdraw all of humanity's domain behind Wall Rose. An estimated 10,000 people were eaten by Titans during this time."

"Eren, Carla, Mikasa, please be all right!" Grisha was driving a carriage, crying .

"Dad!?" Screamed Eren

"So he headed back to check on his family" thought Erwin

"If he's not in the interior than where is he?" Asked Armin

"Eren! Eren!" An ember hovered in the darkness. "Eren! Eren!"

"Dad! Please, stop, Dad!"

There eyes widened

"W... what?" Uttered out Eren "when did this... I... I don't remember this" he was so confused

A syringe. A determined Grisha.

The warrior trio eyes widened.

"How did he get that" thought Bertholdt

"So Grisha Yeager was a titan shifter until he had his son eat him? Interesting" thought Annie

Hange's eyes sparkled "What is that!?"

"Looks like a serum of some kind" Moblit offered his commentary

"Could that be..." Erwin thought out loud "what gave Eren the ability to turn into a titan"

This peaked everyone's interest

"You think so?" Asked Gunther

"How did he make it?" said Marlo

"More importantly how do we make it?" Responded Rico

"Ya we could have a whole army of people who can turn into titans!"
Declared a scout

This then got everyone talking about all the possibilities if they figured out the ingredients to the serum

"EVERYONE SHUT UP SO WE CAN CONTINUE WATCHING!!"
shouted hange who was shaking in her seat

"What are you trying to do?!"

The ember again.

"Just give me your arm!"

"No! Mom's death has made you go crazy!"

The yellow ember became a red key.

"The key" Levi's eyes narrowed

"Eren!"

"Let go, Dad!"

"It's for your own sake! "

Eren's fingers dug into the ground, his body convulsing. "What are you talking about?!"

"Listen! Don't forget the key!" A rush of distorted images, Grisha likely injecting his son. "You must reach it! Until you learn the truth someday!"

Erwin was fully invested leaning towards the screen

Bells rang in the distance and Eren's eyes snapped open, he let out a gasp.

"WHAT!?"

"NO!"

"IS THAT IT!?"

They all were severely disappointed they didn't get more

Hange blitzed towards Eren and grabbed his shoulders

"Think Eren! THINK! Try to remember anything else about this!" She screamed as she began shaking him

"I... I swear I can't remember anything!" Mikasa and Armin began to pull hange off of Eren

"So close..." Erwin wispered looking down

"Commander Erwin" spoke Zachary snapping Erwin out of his thoughts "tell me is this upcoming expedition of the survey corps in order to get to that basement?"

"... Yes sir" he responded

Zachary then put a hand on his chin in deep thought. Everyone was waiting to see what was on his mind.

"If this basement holds the ingredients to this serum or information about the titans then it is high priority to get to it" he began to speak with everyone listening "after the viewing session is complete and we return home we must discuss plans to ensure this expedition is a success"

"... I absolutely agree Premier Zachary" responded Erwin

"If need be the garrison can also assist with giving more equipment and manpower" said Commander Pixis with his last word frightening some members of the garrison

Erwin was shocked that he was receiving help from the rest of military. Usually it was always the scouts on their own with the rest of the branches casting them aside claiming they were fighting for a lost cause and wasting tax money.

Mikasa joined him. "Eren, are you okay? You were crying in your sleep."

Eren sat up. "I felt like I just saw Dad."

"No, you were dreaming."

"I see..." Eren stared at the bronze key before tucking it underneath his shirt.

"Let's go," Mikasa said and stood.

**"They're handing out rations." The two wandered outside.
"Apparently this was their food storehouse. They've gathered all the ship refugees here."**

The place was overflowing with people.

A blonde-haired girl went up to get her bread.

Armin squinted his eyes "hey is that... ANNIE!?"

This immediately got cadets attention

"Your right!" Screamed Jean

"It is her!" said Sasha

"Ah look how cute little Annie is" teased Connie

Eren turned to Annie "I had no idea that you were so close to us after the walls fell!"

"... me neither" finally spoke Annie who had been silent through out the whole viewing session . *"He was that close to us!?"* Thought Annie internally *"if only we knew back then about his titan it would have been so much easier to capture him"*

"Hey! Get in line, will ya?!"

"Shut up! I ain't eaten anything since last night!"

Zachary sighed "and here is the worst part about the fall of wall Maria. The lack of food."

"We will still struggle for survival," Mikasa said, watching the two men grabbing each other's collars.

"Eren! Mikasa!" Armin ran up to them, loaves of bread in his arms.

"Armin..."

"Here! Just in time!" Armin gave them each one loaf. "My grandpa got us some by saying it was for children!"

"People definitely took advantage of that" said Ymir

"Thank you," Mikasa said.

A Garrison soldier came up behind Armin, making a face before moving on. "What's his problem?" Eren stared after him.

"You can't blame him. There's probably not enough food to go around," Armin explained. "And this is an entire day's worth."

"That's a whole days worth!" Said an MP

"I would starve!" Said Sasha

"There are just too many refugees," Armin said. Eren stared at the loaf of bread in his hand. "There was already a food shortage going on, plus the people here aren't treated as well as citizens on the outer wall."

Two more had joined and now four men were struggling and arguing with one another.

"Hunger does crazy stuff to people" said Sasha munching on her snacks

"Oh I know" said Christa remembering how savage Sasha acted after she came to give her food after Shadis made her run

"This is mine!"

"Shut up!"

The two Garrison soldiers looked on at the scene with scorn.

"Useless" said Levi

"Why don't they interfere" asked Christa

"Not getting paid enough and not caring enough probably" said Hitch

"Why should we hafta give our food to some lousy outsiders?" The soldier wasn't keeping his voice down and it was clear the

trio had heard him. "If the Titans got through the Wall, they could've at least eaten some more people, if you ask me."

Eren glared at the man with hatred

"Bastard" said Jean

"And here I thought only the MPs were the assholes" said a scout

"Hey!" Responded a offended MP

"Eren!" Armin called out as his best friend started walking purposefully toward the arrogant Garrison soldier.

"What a surprise" sarcastically said Jean

"This is just gonna make the food shortage even worse." Too busy whining, he didn't notice Eren coming up to him until he kicked the man in the shin. "Oww! What the hell?! "

"Idiot" said half the audience

"The guy had it coming" Eren grumbled

"You damn brat!" He hit Eren. The other Garrison soldier stepped in, kicking the young boy and knocking him down .

They winced at this

Pixis then stood up and faced his garrison subordinates "Are these two men present in this room" he spoke

No response

"Good" he said sitting back down

"You don't know what it's like! You've never even seen it! You've never seen what the Titans do to people!" Eren yelled.

The older man quickly changed his reaction from surprise to anger. "Shut up!"

Armin quickly stepped in. "We're sorry! He's just hungry and irritable! That's why he so rudely lashed out at an adult. I'm very sorry!"

"Way to defuse the situation Armin" praised Hange

"You know Eren you could learn a thing or two from your buddy"
Jean said

"Shut it horse face"

"What you just-"

"Enough" ordered Levi

They complied

Murmurs picked up as a large crowd formed around them, now watching the spectacle unfold openly .

"Now they care" scoffed Ymir

The Garrison soldier glanced around.

"Whatever... You would've been dead without us!" He turned and started to walk away. "You kids ought to show some gratitude!"

"Of course!"

"Damn," Eren cursed. "I refuse to let them take care of me."

"I'm going back to Wall Maria! I'm going to destroy every last Titan!" Eren vowed.

"Eren, you're not being serious, are you?" Armin asked.

"I'm serious! I'm not like those guys who do nothing but act tough inside the Walls!" He threw the bread angrily and Armin fumbled with it, trying not to drop it. "I don't need this crap!"

"Little brat" said Levi

"At times like these you can't afford to be so... spoiled" said Petra

"Your lucky your in a camp that had enough food for you" began Zachary "so many people starved to death due too the lack of it in other camps"

Eren looked away, he was a little shit when he was younger

"Eren! You'll starve to death!" Armin said .

"Doesn't it piss you off?!" Eren demanded. "It's because we take everyone's charity that we can't beat the Titans!"

"That literally makes no sense" said Jean

"He's just throwing a tantrum" spoke Ymir

"It's impossible!" Armin yelled. "There is no beating them! All we can do is live inside the Walls! If we try anything, we'll die! Just like my mom and dad!"

"The kid really is smart" said an MP

"Yet he still joined the survey corps" responded another MP

"So you're just gonna grovel to them then?! That's not shameful to you?!" Eren continued furiously.

"There's nothing we can do for now!" Armin argued.

"That's just an excuse! If you wanna live like livestock forever, go ahead! You weak piece of shit!"

That stunned the audience and especially the cadets since Armin and Eren always seemed so supportive of each other

Eren winced at this but Armin still had a neutral face as if he's has accepted that as fact

"Dude what the fuck" said Connie

"That was very mean Eren" spoke Christa

"And I'm suppose to be the douche bag right?" Retorted Jean

"I actually find it funny coming from you" Olue snorted

"It is quite ironic" said Levi

Eren sighed and turned to Armin "Armin I'm-"

"There's no need to apologize" he spoke cutting Eren off

"... Ya but still I've never should have said that to you, you got to be one of the most strong minded person I know"

Armin smiled at this

Mikasa stepped forward and punched Eren, knocking him to the ground.

This once again surprised the audience and ESPECIALLY the cadets

"Woah" said Connie with wide eyes

"Never thought I see the day that Mikasa actually hits Eren" Ymir

"He needn't to be snapped back into reality" Said Mikasa

"Your right I had that coming" said Eren

"Mikasa?" Armin said softly.

"If Armin's a wimp, then so are we. Whether it was running from the Titans or fleeing the town, we didn't manage anything on our own."

"We even had help finding food today. There's no way such powerless people can defeat even a single one of those Titans," Mikasa continued. Eren sat up and made a face, too stubborn to admit she was right. "Staying alive is what matters most. Just like your mother said."

She took the bread from Armin and walked over to Eren.

Then she tried to force him to eat it.

"Mikasa!" Armin gasped.

"You have to eat and stay alive."

Tears were in his eyes.

"I won't let you starve to death."

"Tough love at its finest" said eld

"Several days later, the throngs of refugees were tasked with cultivating the wastelands to secure food."

Men and women worked the fields under the supervision of Garrison soldiers. The trio, alongside Armin's grandfather, worked among the group .

Sasha remembered how she felt about the refugees when they first showed up and took all the animals and food and how angry she was. She now felt extremely guilty over it seeing how much they suffered

"However, a food shortage was unavoidable. So, in the following year of 846-

"Wait!" Shouted Connie "Reiner! Bertholdt! Is that you guys right there?"

The cadets all examined the screen

"It appears to be so..." Reiner answered

"bertholdt you really haven't changed that much in appearance" Jean said "except of course for your height"

"Man Reiner what was that hair style?" Ymir snorted

"I think it looks good on him" Christa said as to not make Reiner feel embarrassed

"R-really?" Reiner had a slight blush at the compliment

"That's enough" Levi demanded "we shouldn't halt the viewing session for such trivial things"

the Royal Government sent a multitude of refugees on a mission in the name of retaking Wall Maria. "

Armin's grandfather gave him his hat

Armin began to get a little emotional "the government knew what they were doing sending all those people into Titan infested areas" he spoke coldly "they were purposely sending them to their deaths"

Some people nodded to this while some looked at him shocked

"Don't go jumping to conspiracy theories" said an MP

"the government wouldn't do that to its own citizens" said another MP who paused to contemplate his words "right?"

"Unfortunately No" said Zachary with all eyes turning to him "it is as many suspected that in order to handle the lack of food situation the royal government sent out the refugees in order to cull the population"

The people who had suspected something like this was the case all nodded, while the people who never considered their own government would do something like that were horrified

"250,000 were sent, nearly a fifth of the population."

With dead eyes, the refugees followed the Survey Corps soldiers on foot.

"How horrible" said Christa

"To think the royal government could do something so cruel and inhumane" spoke a shock Marlo

"It was a necessary evil" said Zachary with many looking at him in shock "wall rose would have fell into chaos with many fighting for food which would have caused a civil war and more deaths then this alternative option"

They all let his words sink in

"Not even 200 survived."

They grimaced at the massive lost of life

On the bloodied battlefield, only the Titans remained standing.

"Although it wasn't much, their sacrifices did improve the food shortage situation for the rest of the population."

"Like I said a necessary evil" Zachary reminded the audience

Armin sat against a wall, clutching his grandfather's hat, crying.

Tears began to form in Armin eyes, he was at least grateful that the screen didn't show his grandpa's death

"It's all the Titans' fault." Eren stood next to him, Mikasa a couple of feet in front of them. "If we could just subdue them, our place in the world could be ours again. Armin." He sat with his best friend. "I'm going to apply for the military next year." Mikasa let out a resigned sigh. "I'm going to gain the strength to fight the Titans!"

"Me, too."

"Armin?!"

"I will join you, too."

"Mikasa, you don't need to! You said yourself staying alive is what's important!"

"Yes, that's why I'm doing it. So you won't die," Mikasa said plainly.

Eren stood. "Alright. The three of us, then."

"So you guys already faced the titans and are not scared to face them again?" Connie spoke astounded "I never wanted to see a titan again after what happened at trost"

"Dido on that" replied Jean

"Same" said Sasha

"And yet here you are" commented Eren "Officially scouts who are about to head on an expedition"

"Don't get me thinking about that"said Connie

This made Erwin think of something "I wonder if the screen will show the upcoming expedition"

"Hmm well the Being did say we would see the future" said Mike

"So that means we can change anything that doesn't go our way" excitedly spoke Hange

"You are now officially members of the 104th Training Corps," Keith said loudly.

The Cadets gasped at this

"Woah there going to be showing our training!" Spoke Connie excitedly

"Isn't training three years" said Hitch a little nervous

"They will probably skip through most of it... hopefully" responded Marlo

"You have the misfortune of having me, Keith Shadis, as your commandant!"

"Ah this brings back bad times" said Jean

"Sprinkled with some good times too" said Christa

"I do not welcome you warmly! In your current state, you'd be nothing but food for the Titans! You're mere livestock!"
Showing some of the cadets

"Hey there's me!" Said Connie

Sasha began to speak "There's also Jean and-"

"Marco" said Jean with a hint of sadness in his voice

"This is weird" thought Annie seeing herself on screen

"You're less than livestock!"

"Ya Bert and Reiner do look different from there younger selves" commented Eren

"Over the next three years, we're going to train you worthless nothings and teach you how to fight Titans!"

"There's my future wife" Ymir teased getting a reaction out of Christa

"Oh oh there's me!" Screamed Sasha

"Y'all are beginning to REALLY annoy me!" Shouted Olue

"Will you serve as an honorable barrier that protects the king?!"

"Almost forgot Mikasa had long hair at the beginning of training" said Armin

Jean sighed " *what a shame* "

"Or will you be a glorious soldier for humanity that drives the Titans out! It's up to you to decide!"

Yeah, don't worry . Eren stared intently.

Eren glared. I'll kill every last one of them.

Fades to Black

"That seems to be the end for now" said Erwin

Some people went out to get more snacks while most of the people stayed in their seats waiting for the next episode to begin

"I thought this thing was suppose to reveal stuff to us" spoke Levi
"why is it being so secretive about What happened to Eren and the armored titan's transformation"

"No idea" said Erwin "we just got to wait and find out"

The people returned with snacks and sat back down starting the next episode

AUTHORS NOTE(ok even I wasn't expecting to have this chapter come out so soon after the last. I just started writing this weekend and couldn't stop. Chapters will probably start taking a week to come out, two at most)

A Dim Light Amid Despair

"Hey, you!"

All the cadets straightened their backs and looked forward by instincts at hearing their instructors demanding voice again

"The years have not been kind on Commander Shadis" thought Hange

"Sir!" Armin saluted Keith.

"Who the hell are you?!"

"Armin Arlert, from Shiganshina District!"

"I see! That's a ridiculous name! Did your parents give it to you?!"

"My grandfather did, sir!"

"Arlert! Why are you here?!"

Armin closed his eyes and replied loudly.

"To help humanity achieve victory!"

"How very admirable of you! We can feed you to the Titans!"

"I was absolutely petrified" nervously laughed Armin

"Third row, about face!" Keith turned Armin's head and moved on. "Who the hell are you?!"

"Sir! Thomas Wagner, from Trost District!"

Some of the cadets saddened at hearing and seeing there fallen comrade again

"I can't hear you!" Keith got in his face.

Thomas flinched and repeated. "Thomas Wagner!"

"Can't hear you!"

"Look at them go." A young man walked with his silver-haired superior.

"Go practice in a barn!" Keith yelled.

"You went through the same thing when you started as a trainee, didn't you?" The elder man said. "It takes me back."

"Ya I sure do remember my training days" Nanaba said

"Same" spoke Gelgar "but this instructor seems a lot more tamed compared to mine"

"No! You're from a pigsty!" Keith said to Mina. "You're less than livestock!"

"Yes, sir! I am less than livestock!" Mina blurted, panicked.

Armin winced now having the image of her death in his mind and how he just stood by and watched it happen

"But what's all that intimidation for?" The young man asked.

"It's a rite of passage. We revert them to a blank slate through the use of self-denial, after which we mold them into proper soldiers."

"Huh never thought of it like that" said Eren

"It does make sense" replied Armin

Keith picked on another poor soul. "Why the hell are you here?!"

The silver-haired man nodded. "This is one step in that process."

"To devote myself to humankind!" Spoke Samuel

"There's Samuel" said Connie who then turned to Sasha "how is he doing after that fall from the wall, I haven't had time to catch up with him"

"Last I heard he is doing fine and will start his service in the garrison after his recovery " replied Sasha

"Wonder if he's here" Connie said while scanning the crowd

"Already checked didn't see him" Sasha assured

"Fourth row, about face!" Keith passed by Annie.

"There are some he's not talking to."

"It's unnecessary for those who've already been through their rites of passage. They most likely witnessed the hell that took place two years ago. They have a different look on their faces."

Shots of Mikasa, Bert, Reiner, Eren, and Ymir were shown.

" Huh never heard ymir's story of when she encountered the titans "
thought Eren " must be too sensitive for her to speak about it "

"Let's go."

"Who the hell are you?!"

"Jean Kirstein, from Trost District!"

"Oh god" Jean moaned knowing what was about to come

"Why are you here?!"

Jean smiled slightly. "To join the Military Police and live in the interior!"

"Most of the time that is everyone's goal when they join the military" said Eld

Mike looked at Erwin "wasn't he in the top ten?"

Erwin nodded

"So he had a free ride to the Military police regiment" commented Hange

"Wonder what changed his mind" Moblit mumbled

"Can't believe you said that to your instructor" giggled Petra

"You haven't seen the best part yet" said Connie

"Oh. You wanna live in the interior, do you?" Keith asked.

"Here it comes" smiled Eren much to Jeans annoyance

"Yes!" Jean smiled.

And he was immediately head-butted, knocking him to his knees.

laughter came from the crowd at this while Jean winced

"Who said you could sit?! If you can't handle this, you can forget about the Military Police!"

"I doubt that most of the MPs could handle that" said a scout which was met by murmurs of agreement

"Who the hell are you?!" Keith rounded on his next victim.

"Why are you here?!"

"Marco Bott of Jinae, on the south side of Wall Rose!" Marco smiled naively. "I want to join the Military Police and give life and limb to the king!"

"Nice excuse" said a scout

"No" Jean instantly replied "that was really his goal

"I see. That's a fine goal, indeed. Go ahead and strive for it. But, just so you know," Keith said, getting into Marco's face, "the king doesn't want your lousy life or limbs."

Marco stared, shaken.

"You're next! Who the hell are you?!"

"Connie Springer! I'm from Ragako Village on the south side of Wall Rose!" Connie was saluting with the wrong

"Um I think your-"

"I know it's on the wrong side!" Growled Connie earning giggles from the cadets

"How the hell you make it in the top 10 when you can't even salute right?" Ymir teased

"One of life's greatest mysteries" was Jean's only answer

"You have it backwards, Connie Springer!" Keith grabbed his head and squeezed.

This earned a few snickers from the crowd

"It was the first thing you were taught! This salute expresses your resolve to give your heart to the people!"

Two rows behind and to the left was Sasha... with a potato in her hand

"What is that girl doing?" Asked a confused garrison soldier

The cadets Squealed while Sasha sighed with a slight embarrassed blush on her face

"Oh my god how could I forget about this part!" Laughed Connie

"What part?" Asked a scout

"Let's just say You'll see why we call her potato girl" Jean snorted

"Is your heart on your right side?!" Keith demanded.

Then a crunch was heard. And Keith saw it .

The cadets couldn't control their laughter while the other soldiers looked on flabbergasted

"Did... did she just..." spoke a shocked garrison guard

"No way she just did that" said Gunther with a hilarious surprised face

"Quite Bold" snorted Hange

"Quite idiotic" said Levi who was wondering how such doofuses like Blouse and Springer made it in the top ten

The ominous music had disappeared, the only sounds being Sasha chewing and swallowing. Keith dropped Connie. "Hey, you. What do you think you're doing?"

"This won't be good"

Sasha didn't seem to have heard him and took another bite

"She did it again!?" Exclaimed a scout

At this point most of the room couldn't deny how stupid and funny the situation was and let out a few giggles

"What we're you even thinking back then" giggled Christa

"I was Hungry and that potato looked pretty appetizing" Sasha replied

Keith was suddenly in her face, yelling. "I'm talking to you! Who the hell are you?!"

She chewed quickly, swallowed, and saluted. "Sasha Braus from Dauper Village, on the south side of Wall Rose!"

"Sasha Braus." Keith towered over her. "What is that you're holding in your right hand?"

"A steamed potato, sir! I found one in the cookhouse that was ready to eat so I couldn't help myself!"

"You stole it!?" Asked Marlo shocked

"And you admitted to it!?" Asked Hitch equally as shocked

"You stole it? Why? Why did you decide to eat it now?"

"I felt it would be a waste to let it get cold, so I elected to eat it now."

Erwin smiled in amusement while Pixie was giving the classic grandpa laugh

"No, I don't understand. Why did you eat the potato?" Keith was so genuinely confused.

"I literally just told him" said Sasha who was still confused about The instructors question

"I think he was just in shock about the stupidity of the situation like the rest of us" said Ymir

"Are you asking me why people eat potatoes, sir?"

"Truly idiotic" groan Levi who was slightly amused

"Here's half of it for you." Sasha held it out almost reluctantly.

"That's not even half" snickered Moblit

"It's barely even a third" laughed Hange

"Half?" Spoke Kieth With Sasha then smiling

"Heh feels good to take a break from all the doom and gloom from the last episodes" sighed Connie

"All this is completely unnecessary and useless information to us" said Levi Annoyingly

"Whoa, he still has Potato Girl running," Connie observed.

"Huh that punishment isn't too bad" said a garrison soldier

"I expected something more severe with a situation like that" said another

"Man, she's been at it for five solid hours." Marco was impressed. "She's really something. Still, being told to run until she's on the verge of death didn't seem to bother her quite as much as being told she has to skip dinner."

"Dauper's a small hunting village in the mountains, isn't it?" Connie said to himself.

"What's that?" Eren asked, noticing a carriage.

"They're dropouts," Mina answered.

"They asked to work in the fields instead."

"What?" Armin said. "It's only the first day, too."

"That's just how it is here," Eren said.

"The powerless have no choice but to leave."

"Cocky little shit aren't you" said Olue

"Just wait" spoke up Jean "your about to see all that Confidence disappear" he snickered

Eren groan knowing what he was talking about, he was not looking forward to that

"I can't believe anyone would want to pick up rocks and pull plants again."

"That reminds me." Marco straightened.

"You weren't asked to state your name and birthplace or anything."

"I'm from Shiganshina, same as him." Eren smiled at his best friend.

"Oh. That means..."

"You were there that day, weren't you?" Connie asked.

"H-Hey!" Marco said.

"Did you see the Colossal Titan?"

"Y-Yeah."

"A little bit insensitive to question someone's trauma don't you think" asked Ymir

"Sorry I was just so excited to hear an actual true story of the monster and not just folktale" responded Connie

**Inside the mess hall, a group had surrounded Eren's table.
"Like I said, I saw it."**

"Really?" Thomas asked.

"How big is it really?" Samuel asked.

"Big enough to look over the Wall."

"What?! I heard it stepped over the Wall!"

"Me, too!" Hannah said.

"That's what they said in my village, too!" Franz jumped in.

"I heard that it jumped over the wall" said an MP

"I was told that it walked straight through the wall bringing the whole thing down" replied another

"I find it amusing how gullible us humans are" said Pixis

Eren took a sip of his soup. "No, it wasn't that big."

"What did it look like?" Mina asked.

"It had a huge mouth, and almost no skin."

"What about the Armored Titan that broke Wall Maria?!"

"That's what people call it, but it looked like an ordinary Titan to me," Eren said.

Reiner was drinking from his mug at a nearby

Ymir smirked at seeing Reiner paying attention to the story

"There nothing ordinary about that titan" spoke Rico

"He's just trying to act tough" said Jean

"I was not!" Yelled Eren embarrassingly

"Th-Then, what are ordinary Titans like?!" Samuel looked eager and a little scared.

The memory of the Smiling Titan came back, eating his mother. Eren dropped his spoon and covered his mouth. His fellow trainees fell silent.

Marco spoke up, "Let's spare him the questions, everyone. I'm sure there are things he doesn't want to remember."

"Sorry for asking-" Connie began.

"It's not like that!" Eren took a bite out of his bread. "Titans aren't actually that big of a deal! Once we've mastered the 3D gear, they'll be nothing to us!"

"Arrogant much?" Said Niles

"Even our most skilled veterans have trouble slaying titans" said Petra "well except Captain of course "

Jean was listening to the conversation in disinterest.

"We finally get to train as soldiers. I was just overcome with emotion, that's all. I'm going to join the Survey Corps and drive the Titans out of this world! I'm gonna slaughter-"

"Whoa, what are you, crazy?" Jean called out. "Did you just say you're gonna join the Survey Corps?"

"Yeah, that's right. Aren't you the one who wants to join the Military Police and live the easy life?" Eren said.

"I'm all about being honest, you see."

Some of the soldiers eyed Jean's scout jacket with curiosity about why he changed his mind since he seemed so dead set on the military police

"It's much nicer than being, say," Jean said, smiling, face in palm, "a loser who acts tough but is actually scared shitless."

Eren rolled his eyes annoyed

Eren stood, knocking his chair back. "Are you implying something?"

"S-Stop!" Marco held up his hands.

"Come on now."

Jean met Eren halfway. "I wasn't really..."

A bell rang outside, breaking the tension.

Jean sighed. "Whatever, I'm sorry. I don't mean to dismiss your ideas. Let's call it even with this." He held out his hand.

"How sincere" sarcastically spoke Ymir

Jean was getting kinda nervous for he knew what happened after this. They wouldn't show that right? I mean it's not important to the titans or anything else.

Eren walked away.

"Ok now cut off to the next scene" Jean prayed

Jean was looking at Eren's retreating back when Mikasa walked by

"... No" Jean's eyes widened in horror

It was as if time seemed to slow.

"NOOOO!" He screamed in his head with panic written on his face

The cadets eyes widened as realization came upon them

"Wait..." said Armin

"Don't tell me..." spoke Connie

"H-Hey, you!" Jean blushed hard when she looked at him. "Uhh, err, I've just never seen anyone who looks like you before. S-Sorry! You have very pretty black hair."

The cadets burst into laughter and squeals

While Jean covered his face In his palms wanting to disappear from the world

"Always knew he was pervert!" laughed Eren mockingly

"Ahh that's so cute!" Giggled Christa

"Looks like jeany boy has a crush!" teased Connie nudging Jean who was red as a tomato

"I call best man!" declared Reiner

"I call bridesmaid!" Sasha also declared

Mikasa looked on disinterested as did Levi

"Someone please tell me how a brat's secret crush on a girl is important information to us?" He asked already sick of this teen drama shit

"The being wanted reactions" began Erwin "and apparently that means reactions to humor as well"

"I don't find any of this humorous" groaned Levi

"What do you find humorous Levi?" Hange joked

"Thanks." That said, Mikasa walked away.

"How cold..." said Petra

"Oh... tough luck Jean" spoke Connie

"Looks like you struck out" Said Ymir

"Don't worry Jean you'll find someone who shares your feelings"
Christa assured

"Guess I have to take a rain check on that best man deal" sadly
spoke Reiner

"WOULD YA'LL SHUT UP ABOUT THIS ALREADY!!" he screamed
with his face red with both embarrassment and anger

**Jean paused for a second before chasing after her. Looking
around, he saw her fall in step with Eren.**

"oooooh..." the cadets groaned at the cruel twist of fate

"Best to move on bud" Connie patted Jeans back

"Ya seems like Mikasa has already found her man" teased Ymir

"Oh grow up" Eren rolled his eyes at the remark while Mikasa
blushed slightly

"It's no big deal. Get off my back," Eren complained.

**"You never think things through when you get worked up,"
Mikasa chided.**

**"That again? Anyway, don't you think your hair's too long?"
Eren casually flipped her hair with the back of his hand.**

"Just adding salt to the wound" said Hitch

"It could cause an accident during 3D gear training, you know."

**"Alright." Mikasa pinched a few strands between her fingers.
"I'll cut it."**

Jean looked like someone had sucked the life out of him.

Some snickered but most felt pity for the young man, and some didn't care about the situation. The cadets tried to hold in there giggles but were failing miserably at it

"I hate you all..." Jeaned groan looking down at the floor

"But how short should I make it?" Mikasa asked.

"No wonder they always fight" whispered Moblit

"Jealousy is a powerful thing" said Hange

Connie was walking by, humming cheerily to himself when Jean wiped his hand on his back. "H-Hey! Don't mess with other people's clothes! What did you wipe on me?!"

"My faith in humanity."

Whatever laughter the cadets were doing there best hold in immediately burst out

Even the veterans and high ranking officials snickered or gave a small smile

"Finally... done..." Sasha collapsed on the ground. A figure came from the shadows. Her nose twitched. This is... Wild-

**eyed, she attacked the newcomer, knocking her to the ground.
"Bread!"**

Some jumped at this

"Damn!"

"She looks like an animal"

"Hmm your sense of smell is impressive" suddenly spoke Mike
"Something we have in common"

**"It's not much, but I saved it for you." Christa held up a
waterskin. "Oh, but you really ought to drink some water first."**

"That's very sweet of you Christa" spoke Armin

"You know I never thanked you for that" said Sasha

"Oh it was no problem, I love to help out other people" smiled Christa

Ymir stared at Christa for a second before turning her eyes to the
screen again

"Are you a goddess?!"

"Yes" said half the cadets making her blush

Christa looked confused. "Huh?!"

"Are you?!"

"Uhh..."

"Goddess!" Sasha cried out again.

"Hey, what are you two doing?" Ymir came up to them.

Sasha, looking like she was afraid Ymir was going to take the bread from her, began eating it in a frenzy.

"Tch Have some manners instead of eating your food like a pig" Levi said disgusted

Sasha formed a slight blush of embarrassment "y-yes sir"

"Umm, she's been running non-stop all this time," Christa began, "so-"

"So you're trying to do something nice, huh?"

"Huh?"

Sasha passed out in Christa's lap.

Reiner looked on in Jealousy

"Did you do it for Potato Girl's sake? Was what you gained worth the effort it took?" Ymir asked. Christa didn't know how to reply. "Well, whatever. Let's just get her to her bed now." She picked up the unconscious girl.

"Are you trying to be nice, too?"

"I'm doing this so that she'll owe me. Her stupidity will come in very handy."

"Heh liar" said Connie

"Ya I know you love me" teased Sasha "your just too stubborn to admit it"

"Oh shut up both of you" Ymir said annoyingly

"We'll begin by determining your aptitude!" Keith began. "If you can't do this, you're not even fit to be bait! You'll be sent off to the fields!"

"Oh come on" Eren groaned

"Hah! let's see how you like getting laughed at" said Jean

Across the training field, trainees hovered, balancing using the wires.

"These are only just the bare fundamentals." The silver-haired superior of the Training Corps approached. "Still, you can determine a person's knack for 3D gear-mobility at this stage."

Something caught his attention. "Observe." Mikasa was balancing with ease. "Completely steady. She knows exactly what to do and how to do it. That's what aptitude is all about."

The military officials looked on in interest

"Impressive" Said Mike

"Ya doesn't even seem to offer a struggle at all" spoke Moblit

"She didn't graduate top of our class for nothing" Said Eren which made Mikasa smile at the compliment

"You know she kinda reminds me of you captain" said Gunther

"Please there's no way that brat is near Captain's level" scoffed Olue

"It looks like we have many talented trainees this year."

Connie, Sasha, and Jean were doing fairly well themselves.

The trio puffed up full of themselves

"Still find it shocking y'all even made it past basic training" Levi said

"Umm, what about him?" The younger man asked.

**"Now that's another definition of aptitude," his superior replied.
"Some people might have plenty of motivation yet turn out to be less than capable."**

Eren was hanging completely upside-down.

The cadets laughed at this with Jean laughing the hardest to rub it in Eren's face

However everyone else was confused

"Huh" said a confused scout

"Wasn't this kid in the top 10" asked Gelgar

"Top 5 actually" said Nanaba confused

"That doesn't seem right" suddenly spoke Rico "I've seen him use Mobility gear at Trost with no problems"

"Ya and we've been training with him for the expedition" said Eld "kid is a natural at it"

"It wasn't my fault!" Eren defended himself "The damn thing was broken!"

"Faulty equipment?" asked Erwin

"Strange thought it was protocol to check gear before training"
Hange said confused

**Keith knelt next to him. "What are you doing, Eren Yeager?!
Straighten yourself up!"**

What is this? How am I supposed to... Eren was horrified. This can't be for real.

"Look at your face!" Mocked Jean

"Shut it Perv" growled Eren

"you fucking suicidal Ba-"

"I don't want to hear another word between you two for the rest of this viewing session" Said Levi sternly

Later that evening, Mikasa instructed him. "Just follow the basics and you'll be able to do it. Don't think about being fancy or anything. Focus on your front and back balance, then slowly place your weight into the belts on your waist and feet."

"You can do it if you stay calm," Armin continued. "Even I did it, after all."

"Alright, I feel like I've got it this time. Lift

me up, Armin." Eren was still for a second before face-planting into the dirt

"Ouch..." winced hitch and few others

In the mess hall, two trainees spoke, highly amused.

"Hey, Daz, isn't he the one who said he was gonna slaughter all the Titans yesterday? I guess it's off to the fields for him tomorrow."

"Yeah, we can't afford to feed the useless."

Eren had steam rising from his head

"Woah!" Said Hange "how did ya'll not see that?!"

"I... don't know" said mikasa confused "guess I was too focused on eating"

"Training all day really does bring up an appetite" said Sasha

"Eren you mean to tell me that you haven't received any wounds for the two years after your dad injected you with that substance?"
Hange asked

"Hell how did you even make it past training without getting hurt?"
Asked Mike

"I did get hurt sometimes ranging from scratches to bruises but nothing too serious" Eren said. He then paused and appeared to be in deep thought "now that I think about it my injuries did seem to heal rather quickly..."

"Eren." Mikasa gripped his shoulder, causing him to flinch in pain. "There's no point worrying about it."

"You can just learn to do it tomorrow," Armin said.

"How pathetic. There's no way I can wipe them out like this."

"You should just forget about that altogether."

"Good thing you were to stubborn to quit" said Eld

"Ya you have became a big asset for humanity, we're lucky to have you on our side" spoke Petra earning a smile from Eren

"What did you say?" Eren turned to her.

"I'm saying you should give up trying to be a soldier. Fighting isn't about simply throwing your life away."

"Hey, now! I saw what happened that day! Do you really think you can just convince me to quit?!"

"Still," Mikasa said, "it doesn't matter how determined you are."

"Huh? Why not?!" Eren demanded.

"Because you don't get to decide if you're fit to be a soldier or not."

"Sad but true" said Pixis

"Some just don't have what it takes for the life of a soldier" said Rico

The bell rang, signaling the end of the meal.

"I'm not saying you should return-"

"Let's go, Armin.

"O-Okay."

"-to the fields by yourself. You don't need to worry," Mikasa continued as they stood and walked away without her noticing.

"Because wherever you go, I'll go with you." She turned to see Sasha in Eren's recently vacated spot, the mess hall empty.

Another round of laughter hit the crowd

"So, umm... What you're saying is that I can have that?" Sasha pointed to the food.

Mikasa held up the bread. Then took a bite out of it. Sasha's face fell.

"You could have just said no, you didn't have to tease me with it first" pouted Sasha

"The trick to posture control? Sorry," Connie said, "but I'm gifted. All I can tell you is to 'feel' it."

"If anything," Jean mocked, "I'd like to hear your trick for staying sane after putting on such a pathetic spectacle."

Eren bit his tongue at this not wanting to face the wrath of Levi

"C'mon, guys! I'm begging you here," Eren said desperately.

"But didn't you say yesterday, 'If you can't cut it here, you have to leave?'" Connie paused. "Or, wait. Was it, 'If you don't got talent, you have to leave?' Which was it again?"

"Your a jerk for that Connie" said Eren

"Don't talk the talk if you can't walk the walk bud" Connie responded

"Please! I heard you're both really good at it, Bertolt, Reiner!" Eren begged.

Reiner crossed his arms. "Sorry, but I don't think there are any tricks to just hanging there. I can't think of any especially helpful advice, either."

"Oh." Eren looked down.

"I guess we'll just have to hope for the best tomorrow." Armin began to get up.

Bert stopped him with a question. "You two are, umm, from Shiganshina, aren't you?"

"Yes, we are," Armin answered.

"Then you know how terrifying the Titans are. So why do you want to be soldiers?"

"Unlike Eren, I didn't witness the Titan threat firsthand," Armin answered. "It's just I decided I couldn't sit there and do nothing after the Royal Government forced people into that absolutely awful retrieval operation."

"I still can't believe that the royal government would do such a thing" spoke Marlo

"Please those snobs would do anything to save their fat asses" said Hitch

"I see."

"Where are you two from?" Armin asked.

"Reiner and I are from a mountain village on the southeast side of Wall Maria.

"Oh dear" somberly spoke Pixis

"What?" asked a scout

"The garrison Wasn't able to warn the villages in the mountains in time" said Rico

"The Titans beat us to it" spoke Kitz

"Hey, wasn't that...?"

"Yeah," Bert said, "unlike the prosperous towns along the river, we didn't receive word right away. The Titans showed up well before the information did. It happened at dawn. The livestock was acting up, and these strange rumblings kept getting louder and louder. At some point, I realized they were footfalls of some sort. And then, when I hurriedly opened the window..." a titan appeared outside the the shutters

Most of MPs looked away still not use to seeing the creepy demeanor of the titans

The cadets felt pity for their friend for having to experience that, all except one

"That was an impressive performance, almost had me convinced" thought Ymir

"After that I, umm, don't really remember."

"Bertholdt... I had no idea" sadly said Christa

"I-I don't like to remember that event" said Bertholdt

Bert was lost in his thoughts. "Everyone was in such a panic-"

"Hey, now," Reiner interrupted. "What are you suddenly bringin' that up for?"

"Must be a touchy subject for Reiner too" thought Armin

"Sorry. Basically, what I was trying to say is that you guys probably aren't like them."

"Them?" Armin asked.

"The others here who don't know the horror of the Titans," Bert said.

"Hey." Reiner put his hand on his friend's shoulder.

Around the barrack, boys laughed and smiled, sitting in groups on their beds.

Outside, Bert and Reiner led them, lanterns in hand.

Annie squinted her eyes *"they never told me about this"*

"Woah are you guys going out after curfew!?" Exclaimed Connie

"Y'all got a deathwish or something" said Ymir

"Nature clears the mind" spoke Bertholdt

"We also had a spot we wanted to show them" said Reiner

"They're mostly here for show. To live up to society's expectations. You're seen as a coward if you choose production

work when you turn twelve. Society has pushed them into becoming trainees."

They hiked through a forest.

"That said," Bert continued, "I'm no different than them. I chose to be a soldier in the hopes of joining the Military Police so I could work in the safety of the interior."

"Another inspiring Military policeman turned to the scouts?" Thought Niles

"What event made so many cadets have a change of heart" thought Marlo

"If that doesn't work out, I might give up entirely. I don't have any will to call my own, you see."

"There's nothing to be ashamed of for valuing your life," Armin assured Bert.

"As for me, I'm going to return to the hometown we lost. That's all I care about now. I will do it, no matter what," Reiner promised.

"A noble goal" said Pixis

"And one I'm going to achieve" said Reiner who then turned his head to Bert "Isn't that right Bertholdt"

"Uh ya" responded Bartholdt

"What about you?" Bert asked Eren. "Why do you want to be a soldier?"

"I..." His mother's death flashed through Eren's mind. "I decided I have to kill them. I decided I have to slaughter all the Titans with my own two hands." It then showed the face of Reiner

"I think you kinda scared him" giggled Sasha

"His passion can be quite intimidating" joked Reiner

"So, your encounter with the Titans didn't break your will?" Bert asked.

"That's right. But now it's a question of whether or not I'm actually cut out to be a soldier."

Overhead, the clouds parted, revealing a full moon. Its silvery beams highlighted the forest and the river, making it sparkle like a diamond.

The audience looked on in awe at the sight

"It so beautiful" gushed Christa

"If I knew a place like this existed so close to camp I would sneak out too" said Connie

"Check your equipment, starting with your belt adjustment," Reiner advised.

"You'll do just fine tomorrow. I'm certain of it. Eren Yeager, was it?"

"Yeah, thanks," Eren replied, smiling, "Reiner Braun, right?"

"Thanks for that Reiner, I really needed some reassurance" said Eren

"Don't mention it, soldiers are suppose to build their comrades up and be by their side for support" Reiner responded

Most of the soldiers nodded to this

Bertholdt and Annie shared a look of concern at Reiner's words

"Eren Yeager, are you ready?" Keith stared him down.

"Yes, sir!" Eren nodded. *I'm going to do it! I am! I might not have raw aptitude, but no one has more guts than I do!*

"Begin!"

To hell with logic! I know it's completely baseless but guts are all I got! The wires lifted Eren. ***They're my weapon!*** He was hanging steady. Around him, the other trainees let out whoops.

I did it! I'm doing it! Then Eren began to lose his balance. And he crashed. **"N-Not yet! I can still do it!"**

"Let him down," Keith said.

"I-I'm-!" He sat on the ground, ready to cry.

Mikasa's heart hurt at seeing Eren like this while Eren groaned at how pathetic he looked

"Wagner, switch belts with Yeager."

"Y-Yes, sir!"

This time, Eren easily hung in there. "Your equipment was defective. The belt you were using had a broken clasp. I've never heard of this part breaking before." Keith held the defective piece in his hands. "I guess we'll have to add it to the maintenance checklist."

"That's explains it"

"Still confused on why they didn't check the gear before training" said Hange

"Hmm" hummed Levi in deep thought which didn't go unnoticed by Erwin

"Something on your mind Levi?" Asked Erwin

"That gear looks like it's been tampered with" spoke Levi with his words shocking the others

"So your saying someone set Eren up to fail?" Asked Petra

"Someone sabotaged me?" Eren asked confused and shock

All eyes turned to Jean

"... what?" He said

"Did you break Eren's gear?" Ymir asked skeptical

"Huh!?" He exclaimed

"You two... did kinda get off on the wrong foot" said Christa

"Ya and jealousy can make people do crazy things" spoke Sasha

"IM NOT JEALOUS!" He screamed in anger "And I didn't mess with Eren's gear!"

While everyone else was focused on Jean, Eren and Armin had their own suspicions on who the culprit was

They both had their eyes on Mikasa

"Surely she wouldn't go that far to insure my safety right?" Thought Eren not wanting to believe Mikasa would do that to him

"It does make sense" thought Armin "But Mikasa knows how bad Eren wants this, would she really sacrifice his dream for his protection?"

"Then, even with broken equipment, he still managed to hang in there for a few seconds?"

"Whoa!"

"That was impressive" spoke Eld

"Don't let the kid get full of himself" groaned Olue

"Th-Then, what about my aptitude evaluation?"

"You pass. Train hard!" With that, Keith walked away.

I did it! I did it! Eren threw his hands into the air, grinning.
Whadya think of that, Mikasa?! I can do it!

Mikasa stared, mouth open.

"She does seem shocked that I was able to pass..." Thought Eren

I can fight the Titans! There's no need for me to depend on you anymore. Eren thought.

Mikasa slightly looked down at the grown at this

"Looks like things worked out for him," Reiner said.

Armin smiled. "His eyes say, 'What do you think of that?'"

"No," Mikasa said. **"He feels relieved that he doesn't have to leave me now."**

"Ahh that's so cute" said Christa to slightly blushing Mikasa who wasn't expecting the scene to show that

Grisha, today your son has become a soldier. Keith thought.

Eyes widened

"He knew my dad!?" Exclaimed Eren

"Hmm After the viewing session I think it would be in our best interest to question him on his relation to doctor Yeager" said Erwin

The screen faded to black

"... that wasn't really eventful" said Hange who was disappointed they didn't get new intel about the titans

"Your telling me" said Levi "what a waste of time"

"Perhaps not" spoke Erwin "we have just learned that Former Commander shadis is familiar with Doctor Yeager, and that there is a saboteur among the cadets."

"What are you getting at Erwin?" Asked Levi

"Well I find it coincidental that we also have a saboteur who killed Hange's titans"

Hange's eyes widened "you think one of the cadets were responsible for the murder of Sonny and Bean?"

"Judging by the Kirstein's reaction I have a gut feeling it wasn't him" commented Mike

"Then who could it be and why?" Asked Moblit

The people who had left the theater had returned to their seats awaiting the next episode

"Let's continue with the viewing session" said Erwin

The Screen returned to life

AUTHORS NOTE(sorry for the sorta late update, this episode wasn't my favorite to write since it was mostly trivial stuff and didn't have a lot of material for the characters to have an interesting discussion about. The next episodes will be a lot better. Also to answer a question I saw in the comments, I do plan on doing the whole of

season 1 and season 2 before the end of the year. Ideally I would hope to finish this fanfic before the end of the series but that seems unlikely if the AOT the final seasons airs in early 2023)

The Night of the Closing Ceremony

"In the year 845, the Colossal Titan and the Armored Titan suddenly appeared and destroyed one of humanity's Walls and everyday life with it. And then, finally freed from their century-long hunger, the Titans overran humankind once again. Humanity abandoned Wall Maria, lost twenty percent of its population and one-third of its territory, and was forced to retreat behind Wall Rose."

"And that leads us to our current situation" said Nanaba

"Not the most ideal one I must say" Said Gelgar

[Two Years After Enlistment]

Many gave a sigh of relief that they wouldn't have to sit through years of the 104ths training

Rain came down heavily, soaking everything beneath it. In a forest, a horse galloped. "Too slow! Pick up the pace! Run, you lead-footed laggards!"

The trainees ran, carrying large packs.

"Ah the dreaded hikes" said a garrison soldier

"My least favorite part of training" groaned a scout

"You can say that again" agreed Jean

Keith slowed. "What's your problem, Arlert?! You're dragging your feet! Too heavy for you? Maybe you'd prefer I let you drop your gear? If this were a real mission, you'd be Titan food by now!" He galloped ahead.

"Damn." Armin gasped.

Armin shifted in his seat " *why do they have to show me like this* " he thought embarrassingly

"Give it here!" Reiner grabbed his pack. "You're gonna fail out at this rate! We're being graded today!"

Some raised a suspicious eyebrow at this

"Well that explains how the kid passed" said an MP

"It's probably thanks to the charity of others that he was able to survive training at all" commented another

Armin looked down at this while Mikasa and Eren were angered by the rude remarks of their childhood friend

Eren was about to say something until someone beat him to it

"Just keep watching" Said Reiner

"But you'll get points marked off, too, if you do that, Reiner."

"Then make an effort not to get caught. Don't make me change my mind."

"Classic Reiner, always looking after others" thought Eren

Reiner Braun. Keith watched them sneakily.

"He knew?" Thought Armin worriedly

Reiner Braun. He has both a robust physique and mental strength. Keith continued his evaluation. His comrades also have great trust in him.

The cadets all nodded

"Hmm the ideal soldier" thought Erwin

"He seems like the big brother of the group" noted Petra

"That basically sums up Reiner" said Eren

"Better stop before I get flustered" joked Reiner

"I refuse to be a burden!" With determination, Armin shot forward. "Even if it costs me my life!" He snatched back his pack. Breathing heavily, he raced forward

Eren smiled at his friend's determination

"See?" Smirked Reiner "shouldn't jump to conclusions so early"

Armin Arlert . Keith thought. Although lacking in physical strength, his aptitude in the classroom is extraordinary.

"The best strategist in the whole 104th" confidently said Mikasa

"Damn right" smirked Eren

"No arguments here" spoke Christa

"Not like he had much competition" said Olue glancing at Connie and Sasha who were throwing popcorn in the air failing to catch it in their mouths

Ahead, a Titan dummy was raised. Jean, Bert, and Annie sliced through the nape.

Annie Leonhart. Her slice attacks are absolutely flawless, but her reclusive tendencies make her a poor fit for coordinated efforts.

"You can say that last part again" said Hitch who had grown quite familiar with Annie's Antisocial behavior with them being roommates.

"Seems she's always been that way even in training" commented Marlo

Annie remained quiet

Bertolt Hoover. He possesses remarkable potential but lacks assertiveness. Keith noted.

"He has a point Bertholdt" began Reiner "if you would act more independent instead on relying on others to act first you could become a great soldier"

"r-right" said Bertholdt eyeing Reiner worriedly

Jean Kirschstein. Top-class 3D mobility. But his volatile personality tends to cause friction with others

"Bingo on that" spoke Connie

"Ya you try to hard to steal all the glory" said Sasha

Jean scoffed at their remarks

"I can't slice as good as those two! I'll just have to find the Titans before them!" With great ease, Jean navigated through the forest. **"If anyone gets into the Military Police it'll be me!"**

"That didn't seem to work out to well" commented a scout

Jean sighed *"No. don't start second guessing yourself. You made your decision and have to stand by it."*

"Thanks for the help, Jean!" Connie passed him by. **"Following you was a good idea!"**

"Damn kill stealer and you say I steal the glory" snarled Jean

"The real kill stealer is Sasha here" groaned Connie causing Sasha to wink at him

"Hooray!" Sasha cheered, having gotten the kill before Connie.

Sasha Braus. She has unconventionally good intuition but also demonstrates poor teamwork as a result.

"What did I tell yuh" said Connie

Connie Springer. He excels at executing quick turns but is also a bit dim-witted.

This cause the cadets and some soldiers to laugh

"Oh come on!" Shouted Connie

"Here they come," one of the helpers said.

The other one pulled the lever, setting up two Titan dummies.

Mikasa zipped by and cut both deeply.

Then Eren zoomed by for his attack

"Damn!" Eren cursed. "Shallower than Mikasa again!"

"Hah! do you honestly think you can compete with Mikasa!?"
Laughed Jean

"Ya man she's on a whole different level" Said Connie

"Eren there is no need to compete with me" Mikasa tried to assure him "you could get hurt pulling the same maneuvers as I do"

Eren huffed at this. No matter how hard he tried during training or anything else Mikasa was always better then him.

Mikasa Ackerman . Keith observed his best student. Completely proficient in every area. It's apt to say she's an unmatched, unprecedented genius.

"Interesting, the instructor didn't note any criticism for her" said Mike

"Because their isn't none to be noted" responded Jean

"Can't wait to see this Ackerman girl in combat" Said Eld

Eren Yeager. He has no real specialties-

"Except for having the ability to transform into a titan" said Gunther

but he's improved his grades with his unparalleled effort. And he possesses twice the sense of purpose than anyone else.

That concluded the evaluations

Erwin took a mental note of his new soldier's pros and cons. He was quite satisfied with recruiting 8 of the top 10 and had high hopes for these cadets

Reiner charged. Eren slammed him into the dirt. "Ow!" Reiner winced.

"Sorry." Eren offered him a hand. "I'm not good at holding back."

"Now it's your turn to be the criminal." Reiner held out the wooden knife. "What's the matter?"

"I don't get this training." Eren accepted the knife. "Why would soldiers fight other people? Only an idiot would take on a target barehanded."

"Some times the scenario doesn't offer you the courtesy of having a weapon" began Rico "and you just gotta make due with your body"

"It's a great exercise for future Military policemen" said Niles "since combating with humans is our specialty"

A grainy image of little Eren standing looking down with a spear embedded in something flashed on the screen.

This took the audience by surprise and even caused Levi to raise an eyebrow

"... what was that" asked a concerned Garrison guard

"Eren was that you?" Questioned a confused Christa

"Well it seems the report about you two was true" said Niles eyeing Eren and Mikasa

"Huh?"

"Just drop it" spoke Eren who was sensing The pressure coming off Mikasa

They decided to just move on much to her relief

"That's irresponsible thinking," Reiner scolded. "We're soldiers. There are times we can't run away, no matter how bad the situation is."

Around them, the trainees continued to spar.

"No matter what the enemy is, we have to be ready for it, whether it means using cannons or combat techniques. I believe that's the responsibility of a strong soldier."

Many nodded at this

"I'm beginning to like this kid" Said Gelgar

"He is really dedicated to his duty" said Nanaba

"He's a fine young man" Said Mike

"Indeed" Spoke Erwin "I expect great things from Both him and Ackerman"

"Anyway, look there," Reiner said.

"Oh, it's Annie," Eren said. "She's slacking off without the commandant noticing again."

"Alright, Eren. That slacker needs a lecture, too. Let's teach her how a soldier's supposed to act."

"Huh?"

Both Eren and Reiner sighed

"That probably wasn't the best idea" Reiner gave a small laugh

"You think?" Sarcastically said Eren

"Doesn't take a genius to know where this is heading" said Jean

Annie was looking behind her and ended up almost running into Reiner's chest. He smirked down at her,. "Not fond of the commandant's head-butts? If you don't wanna end up any shorter, think back to why you enlisted in the first place and start taking things seriously."

"Ya no kidding" nervously laughed Connie

"This is the first time I've ever seen her show emotion" said Hitch

"Alright!" Reiner came up behind Eren and grabbed his shoulders. "Get started, Eren!"

"Me?!"

The cadets laughed at this

"Coward!" Said Eren "making me do your dirty work"

Reiner just chuckled "doesn't matter since we both got our asses put into the dirt"

Annie got into position.

Levi raised an eyebrow at this new fighting style "Never seen a fighting stance like that"

"They didn't teach us that during training" commented Christa

"It was my own style that was passed down in my family" Said Annie hoping to shut the discussion down

"You know the drill, right, Annie? Here I come!" Eren charged. Seconds later, he was down. "Wh-What the?! She kicked my leg?!" He tried to stand and fell.

Mikasa narrowed her eyes at this "this is sparring your not supposed to harm your opponent"

"He's the one that came picking a fight" retorted Annie

"It was Reiners idea!" Shouted Eren

"Can I go now?" Annie asked Reiner.

"No!" He placed his hands on his hips. "The drill's not over until you take the dagger!"

"Seriously dude" laughed Connie

"You we're enjoying this weren't you" said Jean grinning

She sighed in irritation and turned back to Eren.

"Wait, Annie! There's a method to this!"

Annie took the dagger without effort and kicked his legs out from under him, knocking him down.

"Was that extra force really necessary to disarm him" Mikasa complained again glaring at Annie

Annie just rolled her eyes

"Mikasa stop trying to fight my own battles for me" said an annoyed Eren

Mikasa pulled her scarf up with downcast eyes. It bothered her that Eren didn't get angry at Annie for throwing him around but when she tried to help or look after him in anyway he threw a tantrum

"There." Annie tossed the dagger to Reiner. "Now it's your turn to attack me."

"N-No, I'm-"

"Do it, Reiner," Eren said. "I thought you wanted to teach her about a soldier's responsibility?"

"Gotta practice what you preach man" chuckled Connie

"Yeah. Sometimes a soldier can't back down. This is one of those times!" Reiner was immediately knocked down.

The crowd had a good laugh at this

"That's an amazing technique. Who did you learn it from?" Eren asked.

"My father."

"Your dad came up with that move?"

"What does it matter?" Annie said harshly. "There's no point to any of this."

"You mean this training?"

"We aren't graded on our hand-to-hand combat skills. Most people brush it off, like them, because only the top ten trainees are allowed to join the Military Police and serve in the interior."

Jean fought Marco while Christa took on Mikasa.

Annie kept talking. "The only ones who take it seriously are naive idiots like you or just ordinary idiots."

Some casted Annie a questioning glance at what she was trying to get at

Connie and Sasha were fooling around. "Shit! The commandant!" Eren said.

Keith walked up to the duo goofing off and squeezed Connie's head.

"Why did he always single me out" groaned Connie

"Because you make it to easy" replied Ymir

Annie took the initiative, attacking Eren. "For some reason, in this world, the better you are at fighting Titans the further you can get from them. How do you think this farce came about?"

"We have to have some way to regulate entry into the Military Police or else every cadet would apply for the position" stated Niles

"Supposedly the reason for it being the top 10 is so the best soldiers of humanity can serve the King and protect the people" Said Zachary

"When in reality all they do is sit on their asses when they could be using their skills to protect humanity from the titans" said Olue

"I don't know." Eren yanked her arm, pulling her close. "That's a good question."

Annie crouched and swept her leg under his. Straddling him, she held the knife above his throat. "Maybe because it's human

nature? Anyway." She stood, tapping the knife against her chest. "I refuse to be stupid enough to play 'soldier' in this inane world."

"A little on the nose there" thought Ymir

Annie's last line seemed to snap Reiner out of his good mood as his face adopted an expression of dread. the memories came back to him.

Bertholdt noticed Reiner's change in demeanor and gave a tired sigh

"Looks like you're not much of a soldier at all," Reiner said as she passed by.

I was so caught up in getting stronger that I never realized it. It's such a clear contradiction. Eren thought. They're honing their Titan-killing skills just to get away from the Titans!

"Your just now realizing that" asked Ymir

"Man your slow" scoffed Jean

"It was pretty obvious" commented Sasha

"Like I said my mind was focused on other more important things" Eren replied

"It can't be helped," Armin said later that evening in the mess hall. "Before Wall Maria fell, only the Scouts needed 3D gear, and they're a small regiment."

"And they keep getting smaller" whispered an MP

"Give it a strong blast for just a second." Jean was talking to Marco.

"So this was a way to prevent its decline," Armin continued.

"Relying on inertia will save you gas."

"You figured that out in training?" Asked Hange

"I tried to learn anything that could Give me an advantage in my ODM skills so I could rank in the top ten" replied Jean

"You make it sound so simple," Marco said.

"Yeah, maybe not everyone can pull it off but there's no harm in knowing about it, if you wanna join the Military Police."

"Yeah! I'd love to get in! Working near the king, there's no greater honor than that!"

"So he actually meant that?" Asked a scout

Jean slowly nodded

"That's rare" said Gelgar

"Now this one seemed really dedicated to join the MP regiment" said Niles "wonder what changed his mind"

The cadets all fell silent at this

Reiner began to shake so bertholdt put a comforting hand on his shoulder to try calm him down

Annie just continued to stare forward but with her eyes seeming more dead

"C'mon on, Marco!" Jean slapped his back, making him spill his drink over his face. "Quit talkin' like a goody-two-shoes and say what you really think! You wanna join the Military Police 'cause it means a safe, comfy life in the interior!"

Some MPs coughed at this

"No! I really do want to-"

"It's comfy in the interior?" Eren interrupted. "Until five years ago, this used to be the interior, too."

"What's your point, Eren?"

"Jean, you don't need to go to the interior. I'd say your head is nice and spacious enough as it is."

Connie, Reiner, and many other trainees chuckled.

"Heh that was a good one" chuckled Connie

"Your one to talk" replied Jean "your head is more spacious than mine"

"Did you just admit your head was empty?" Giggled Sasha

Jean refused to respond

"You little-"

"Honing your Titan-killing skills to get away from the Titans," Eren said. "Doesn't that seem like a weird system to you?"

"You only say that now?" Jean stood up. "I want that stupid system to stay in place, for my sake."

"Can't argue with that" whispered a MP

"You piece of trash!" Eren got up.

"Shut up!" Jean yelled and Eren grabbed his collar. "This is the real world!"

"Eren, calm down!" Armin said.

"Stop that." Mikasa came up to them. She grabbed Eren's hand and removed it from Jean's collar. The two stared at each other in front of Jean. Mikasa was still holding his arm, and Eren gave in.

"Don't screw with me, you bastard!" Jean grabbed his collar.

"Jealous" simultaneously said the cadets

"Shut.up." Jean slowly warned

"Huh?! Let go! You're gonna rip it!"

"I don't give a damn about your clothes! I'm jealous!"

"You even admitted it!" Laughed Connie and the rest of the cadets

"I SAID SHUT UP!" screamed Jean now on his last nerve

"Huh?! What are you talking about?!" Suddenly, it hit Eren. The trainees were all watching them. *I see now. He always has to take his feelings out on others. Just like I always do*

"Don't you dare bring me down to your level Yeager" warned Jean

But not this time! Eren grabbed Jean's arm. I'm going to use that move to take control of the situation! He knocked Jean off his feet with Annie's signature move.

Annie's eyes widened at the sight.

"Whoa."

"Wow!"

"it didn't take you long to learn that move" said Petra

"It was a little sloppy" Spoke Annie who turned her stare towards Eren "but not bad for an amateur"

Eren smiled at her causing Mikasa expression to become even colder

"Your lucky you just caught me off guard" grumbled Jean

"What the hell was that?!" Jean sat up.

"A combat technique I learned the hard way while you were screwing around," Eren answered. "A carefree, capricious life is your idea of the real world? And you honestly call yourself a soldier?"

Jean growled at this not liking to be looked down on by the likes of Eren

No one spoke, watching the scene, waiting to see what would happen next.

The door creaked open. Surprised, they all turned to see half of Keith looking in, appearing slightly unhinged.

"Creepy" shuttered Hitch

"I heard a loud sound just now. Would anyone care to explain?"

None spoke up. Jean and Eren quietly returned to their seats. Mikasa suddenly raised her hand and said in a deadpan, "Sasha just ripped a giant fart."

The crowd once again burst into laughter

Sasha was horrified. The trainees trembled as they tried to muffle their laughter. "Huh?! You again?" Keith covered his nose. "Learn some decency, will you?!" He closed the door behind him.

"poor Sasha" laughed Connie

"Why you put the blame on me?" Sasha asked with a blush of embarrassment

Jean and Eren continued to glare at each other while Mikasa gave the harassed girl her bread to quiet her down

"That's one way to shut her up" chuckled Ymir

" And so, two-hundred and eighteen trainees made it to graduation."

"Give your hearts!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Finally" exhaustingly spoke Levi

"Now hopefully we can get into the more interesting material" excitedly said Hange

"You have three options after you graduate from the Trainee Corps today! The Garrisons, which reinforces the Walls and protects each city!"

"Humanity's shield" Spoke Pixis

"The Survey Corps, which risks life and limb to venture into Titan territory outside the Walls!"

"Humanity's Spear" Proudly said Erwin

"And the Military Police, which serves under the king by policing the people and preserving order!"

"Humanity's dipshits" Mocked a scout making a few giggle

"Ok this Military police slander is getting old" Groaned a MP

"Of course, the only ones allowed to join the Military Police are the top ten trainees who were previously named!"

The top ten stood side-by-side in order of their ranking: Mikasa, Reiner, Bert, Annie, Eren, Jean, Marco, Connie, Sasha, and Christa.

"You should all feel pride for this accomplishment" Zachary spoke to the recruits "It is a difficult task to rank in this section"

"Still find it weird that only one joined the MPs" said a garrison soldier

"Ya if I had ranked in the top 10 I wouldn't hesitate to choose the MPs" sighed another garrison soldier "sadly I had to settle for the garrison instead"

We've finally made it here. Now it's our turn to devour the Titans! Eren promised.

Scene changed to the messing hall

"Yes!" Connie grinned. "Now I'm gonna be in the Military Police!"

"No more worrying about food!" Sasha cheered.

Connie and Sasha faces tensed at this

"How'd I get ranked under Eren?! Damn!" Jean took a deep swig from his mug.

"Not a word" growled Jean as Eren prepared to say something

" Are you seriously not gonna join the Military Police, Eren?" Thomas asked.

"Even after you got into the top ten and all?" Samuel said.

"My mind was set from the very start. I didn't train all this time to live in the interior. I did it to fight the Titans."

"We can't beat them!" Thomas yelled.

The room instantly quieted.

"We can and we will"Proclaimed Eren

"You know how many tens of thousands of people have been eaten so far? The answer was clear after we lost twenty percent of our population. Humanity can't beat the Titans."

"So? You're gonna give up because you think we can't win?" Eren retorted.

"It's called accepting reality" spoke an MP

"No, that's called laying down and dying" said Eren stubbornly
"something I'm not willing to do"

"Well..."

"Yes, humanity has lost so far. That's because we were clueless about the Titans! Material warfare is useless against them. We lost, but the information we gained in battle will lead to further hope! Are we just going to throw away all the advances in fighting techniques that cost us tens of thousands of lives so we can be Titan fodder?!"

The crowd continued to listen to his speech

Every pair of eyes was on him.

"To hell with that! I'm going to drive out every last Titan and leave these cramped Walls! That's my dream! Humanity hasn't truly been defeated yet!" Gritting his teeth, Eren left.

Claps erupted from audience with the majority coming from the survey corps

"Not bad" muttered Levi

"that was an inspiring and passionate speech" spoke Moblit

"Ya I got pumped up from just listening to it" said a scout

"Wait, Eren!" Armin and Mikasa went after him.

If you wanna go outside the Walls, be my guest! I'm gonna join the Military Police! Jean thought.

"Stop mentioning that" Thought Jean tightening his fist at the life he could of had. He took a deep breath to calm himself down

"Eren," Armin said, "that stuff about your dream just now..."

"Yeah, I borrowed those ideas of yours about going outside instead of staying inside."

"Wait Armin you want to go outside the walls?" asked Ymir shocked that this timid boy could have such grand goals

"Yes it has always been my dream since I was little to venture beyond the walls" smiled Armin

"And very soon on this next expedition that dream is going to come true" smiled Eren alongside his friend

Members of the survey corps gave them a look of pity

"Their not prepared for the true reality of what lies outside these walls" sadly thought Petra *"which is danger and death lurking at every corner "*

"I'm going to join the Survey Corps!"

"Are you serious, Armin?! You were the top in classroom studies! You should put that to use!" Eren said.

"I won't be a burden. Even if it costs me my life."

" But I was..." regrettably remembered Armin

"I'll join the Scouts, too," Mikasa said.

"Hey! You graduated top of the class! You should join the Military Police!"

"If you join the Military Police, then I will, too. If you join the Garrisons, then I will, too. Because you'll die an early death unless I'm around."

"Glad to see you have so much confidence in me"

"Was I wrong?" Asked Mikasa knowingly

Eren knew what she was referring too "... whatever"

"I never asked for your protection."

"I don't want to lose any more of my family."

It still frightened Mikasa how close she came to that reality

The scene panned over to Trost district

The atmosphere took a drastic change at this knowing what was to happen on that dreaded day

Members of the crowd began to prepare themselves for what they were about to witness

"It's here! The main unit of the Survey Corps!"

"Commander Erwin! Give those Titans a real thrashing for me!"

"Look! It's Captain Levi! They say he's as mighty as an entire brigade!"

The mood turned back to lightheartedness

"Ahh! Look look! There's me!" Excitedly squealed Hange as Moblit tried to calm her down

"Looks like captain has finally made his appearance" smiled Olue

"I don't like this" thought Levi at seeing himself on screen

"Look Mike there's you" pointed out Gelgar

"Uh-huh" was Mikes only reply

"There's me in back!" said a scout

"Ugh, shut up already," Levi grumbled.

"This is nothing like five years ago!" Eren smiled. "People actually feel hopeful about the Survey Corps!"

"All that cheering did feel good when exiting the walls" smiled a scout with his fellow comrades nodding

"Yeah," Hannah said, "everyone's cheered up since then. Nothing's happened in five years."

"They've upgraded the mounted cannons, too. I doubt the Colossal Titan will show up anymore," Franz said.

"Yeah!"

"That's didn't age well" sighed Rico

"That's a load of crap, you idiotic couple!" Eren glared.

"Wh-What? Us, a married couple?"

"You're getting ahead of yourself, Eren!"

"What do you have against couples?" asked Christa

"A soldier shouldn't focus on something so stupid and should be more concerned about fulfilling their duty for humanity" Eren said snarkily

"Heh sounds like your just mad you don't have a girlfriend" mocked Jean adding to Eren's irritation

"Hey, guys!" A masculine voice called out.

"Hannes!"

"I make my return" Said Hannes with a smile

"I heard you graduated yesterday. You squirts really shaped up."

"You too, Hannes!" Eren said. "You used to be a drunk, but now you're chief of the Corps of Engineers."

"Well that's quite a promotion" commented Moblit

"And well deserved" said Pixis "I'm the one who approved the promotion and I must say while reading your resume I was impressed with all you've done in the past 3 years"

"Thank you sir" smiled Hannes

"You little." Hannes flicked Eren's forehead playfully. He looked down and said sadly. "I'm sorry I couldn't save your mom."

Hannes smile faded away

"It wasn't your fault," Eren replied calmly, surprising the older man. "We're not ignorant anymore. We won't let another tragedy like that happen. We will defeat the Titans!"

I don't know if I should be happy that you've grown up or not. Don't go dyin', now. Hannes thought

Eren groaned knowing how close he came to death *"I am not looking forward to that embarrassment"*

On top of the Wall, the newly graduated trainees were performing maintenance work.

Eren, Connie and Sasha's bodies tensed

"Huh?" Eren gaped. "You're joining the Scouts, Connie? You were so set on the Military Police!"

"Yeah, I was." Connie didn't look at him. He kept polishing the cannon.

"But sounds like your speech yesterday won him over." Mina came up to him.

"Huh?"

"Shut up." Connie turned to them, a little pink. "I decided it on my own!"

"Sure you did" teased Sasha

"Oh shut up" responded Connie

"Was it Eren's speech that inspired most of the top graduates to join the Scout regiment?" Wondered Marlo

"Don't be so embarrassed. You're not the only one," Thomas said scratching his cheek embarrassingly

"Thomas, you..."

Eren's fist tightened

"Umm, everyone?" Sasha grabbed their attention. "I brought some meat from the officers' storehouse!"

"You stole meat from an officer storehouse?" Asked a shocked soldier

"Taking a potato is one thing but stealing from your superiors is to far" condemned Rico

"Uh sorry" Sasha nervously laughed

"Just don't continue this behavior" spoke Pixis who didn't really care

"Sasha! Do you want to end up in solitary confinement?!"

"You really are crazy!"

"So much that it's scary."

"We can all share it later. All sliced up, and between some bread." Sasha drooled, cheeks red. She let out a guttural sound in delight.

"She is really obsessed with food" said a weirded out Soldier

"We didn't even have the chance to taste it..." sadly spoke Sasha

"Go put it back!"

"Yeah. After we lost all that land, meat's become really valuable."

"It'll be fine!" Sasha went to the wooden ice-box. "We can just raise more cattle and sheep once we retake our land."

"That's the spirit" smiled Petra

Samuel gulped. "I'll have some of the meat!"

"M-Me too!" Connie said. "Save me some!"

"I'll have some too, of course!" Mina smiled.

"Guys..." Eren trailed off.

"Things were going so well..." somberly thought Eren

"Why are you just standing there, Eren?" Samuel asked. "We'll get found out if we don't get back to work! Lunch isn't for a while!"

Five years have passed since then. Eren looked out at the city. Humanity is finally regaining its dignity. Cannons lined the Wall. We can win! He clenched his hand. Humanity's retaliation is just beginning!

"I say hoorah to tha-

Lightning struck. A mammoth face appeared behind Eren. They were frozen in shock and fear.

The audience had the same expression of the cadets on screen. They knew the Colossal titan had appeared at trost but they didn't expect it to appear so... suddenly

Bertholdt shifted in his seat

Steam blew and the gate exploded. Debris flew and the winds ripped apart homes.

"That... was all it took" said a shaken Kitz Weilman

"How can it just appear in instant like that?" Asked a nervous Marlo

"Can it just materialize anywhere at any time" questioned a MP

This sent shivers among the crowd at the mere thought of it having that much power

"If it wanted to it could just destroy all the gates of the walls in a single day" said a garrison soldier

"But it hasn't" Spoke Zachary "it has waited 5 years to strike humanity once more"

"Not that I'm complaining but why is it taking such long periods to return?" Inquired a scout

"Maybe to lure us into a false sense of comfort so it can ambush us when we least expect it?" Said Niles

"... that power to appear in a instant accompanied by lightning" began Rico who had just came to a shocking revaluation "is similar to how Eren transforms into a titan..."

Everyone paused at this contemplating what the Garrison soldier just said. Their eyes widened and mouths held agape when they realize what that would mean

The warrior Trio tensed at this. Reiner's eyes darkened and bertholdt began sweating. Annie's cold expression remained

"About time they it figured out" thought Ymir

"... wait" uttered out Connie

"You don't mean..." slowly said Christa

"The Colossal titan is-"

"Human" finished Erwin confirming everyone's suspicions "we have been theorizing about this possibility for while and now with the evidence presented right in front of us it is basically confirmed this is the case"

"We also believe the same thing for the Armor titan" said Hange

The crowd fell into silence. The two titans that had the ability to caused humanity go extinct with one fatal hit to the gates... were living among them

The very idea sent shivers down there spines

"There are others like me?" Eren was shocked by the news

"I knew this kid couldn't be trusted!" Screamed Kitz Weilman standing up from his seat "he shares the same power as those monsters that took Wall Maria from us! he could be their accomplice sent into our ranks to sabotage us from the inside!" He said accusingly breathing heavily

"WHAT!?" Screamed Mikasa and Eren at the same time

"Calm yourself Captain" commanded Pixis "we had just witnessed the boys past and you still find him untrustworthy? Don't allow your paranoia to cloud your judgment"

Kitz excessive beating heart began to calm down " *huff huff* your *huff* your right... sorry" he returned to his seat

"If they are humans then why are they joining forces with the titans to eradicate us?" Asked Moblit

"That's a question we would all like to know" spoke Erwin, but in the back of his mind he had his own theory on why they were doing this . That theory both excited and frightened him

The group on the Wall was knocked off as well. Oww! Hot! Eren quickly worked his 3D gear. Wh-What the?!

"Samuel!" Connie yelled, watching their comrade fall.

"Shit" cursed a scout

"There goes the first casualty of the battle of trost" sadly spoke Rico

"I wouldn't say that just yet" Said Connie smiling at Sasha

"Sasha!" Mina called out.

Sasha ran down the Wall, one hook in the Wall, and shot the other hook Samuel's calf, stopping him from plummeting to his death. "Samuel, stay still!"

"Woah" said a scout

"That was some impressive agility skills" praised Nanaba

"That was close" said Armin

"To close" nervously said Christa who was glad they didn't lose anymore friends at trost

"Hmph I guess luck wasn't the reason you made in the top 10" commented Levi

Sasha smiled at the praise

That was close! Then Eren saw it. The Wall, it's broken!"

"It's happening again! The Titans are going to get in!" Connie panicked.

His mother's death and the promise he made filled his mind. "*I'm going to kill every last one!"*

***Every... last... one...* Eren snapped out of his daze. "Mounted Cannon Maintenance Squad 4!" He readied his swords. "Prepare for battle! The target is the Colossal Titan dead ahead!"**

"Are you insane!" screamed an MP

"You didn't seriously charge at the COLOSSAL titan did you!?"
Asked another MP

"Damn right he did" Grinned Connie

"Only Eren would be stupid enough to charge at a 60 meter titan by himself" said Jean

"Eren" Mikasa said Concerned "you can't keep charging head first into situations like this. You could of been killed, you almost were killed!"

Eren looked at mikasa like she just said the stupidity thing ever

"Mikasa" he began slowly "humanity's greatest threat" his voice started to get louder "the titan that kicked the Boulder that crushed

my mother!" he was screaming at this point "had just struck once again and you want me to just sit back and do nothing!!?"

"I want you to think before you act Eren" she Said sternly, her expression then softened and she stared at Eren "All I want is for you to be safe"

Eren then remembered his suspicions about who broke his gear. He narrowed his eyes at her "even if it means crushing my dream?"

Mikasa was taken back by this "Eren... what are you talking about?"

"Admit Mikasa, you were the one who broke my gear so I would get kicked out of the military!" He said angrily

This got the attention of everyone around them as they listened to their conversation

Armin studied Mikasa's face to judge her reaction

"What?" She said shocked that Eren would accuse her of this "Eren I didn't touch your gear!"

"Liar!" He screamed back "you were against me joining the military from the very start so you decided to-" he stopped talking when a hand was placed on his shoulders

"Eren" spoke Armin "I think she's telling the truth"

"Agreed" said Pixis putting a finger on his head "this old mind is good at telling when someone is telling the truth or not. The girls reaction seems genuine to me"

"I also agree with Commander Pixis and Arlert's assessments" Stated Erwin who had his own suspicions on the reason why Eren's gear was broken

Eren took in the information and calmed down. He averted his eyes feeling embarrassed and a little ashamed for his outburst at Mikasa

Mikasa stared at him for moment then returned her eyes to the screen

He swung up. "This is our chance! Don't let it get away!"

"No hesitation or signs of fear at all" smirked Eld "you really are something Eren Yeager"

Eren spiraled into the air then landed in a crouch and stared at the Colossal Titan. "Hey, there. It's been five years."

"More like a day" thought Ymir knowing that Eren had been in the presence of the colossal titan a lot sooner that he thought

"So the battle of trost has begun" Said Pixis

Rico nodded "we can now see the battle from different perspectives"

"I can't wait to see Eren's titan in action" excitedly said hange shaking in her seat

Erwin took a look around the room noting that no one in the crowd had left there seats with there eyes set on the screen

"Seems everyone else are as eager to continue as you are Hange" spoke Erwin returning his gaze upon the screen

The screen flickered to Life once more

AUTHORS NOTE (finally got done with this chapter. Hopefully now that we're getting into the more exciting stuff I can't start pumping out chapters at a faster pace.)